

HOME NEWS

BSC chief attacks ministerial 'bungling'

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, last night launched a strong attack on "bungled" government communications and on Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Criticizing "leaks" which led to reports yesterday that the Government was planning to unseat him once the present strike was resolved and which Sir Charles believes emanated from Mr Prior, he said: "I had no prior warning. I did start to get angry."

"I do not think that I have been so angry since the last time I saw Mr 'Tiny' Rowland [Mr Roland Rowland, head of the Lonrho company, who met Sir Charles recently over difficulties experienced by Lonrho's steaming subsidiary, Hatfield]."

"There are monumental problems, they are very difficult to solve and there is a great deal of bungled communication going on in the Government at the moment," Sir Charles added. He emphasized that he had no intention of resigning.

"I am here until my contract finishes at midnight on September 10 this year. I have not asked and do not wish for it to be renewed," he said.

Clearly encouraged by the vote of confidence in his chairmanship, given by the Prime Minister in the Commons yesterday, Sir Charles said: "Reports of my demise have been exaggerated and premature."

He said he had warned the Government last September that the pay negotiations and the accompanying retrenchment of British Steel could lead to a general strike. The Government had taken note of his warning.

Sir Charles said he had told Whitehall six months ago that ministers should begin a search for a successor and he had approached possible candidates, none of whom felt able to take on the job. He emphasized that Europe was obviously a factor.

Sir Charles reported to details of the draft claim due to be submitted to the BSC at the end of this week, details of which appeared in *The Times* yesterday. It was rather strange, he said, that the details should appear in a newspaper rather than coming from the unions direct to the corporation.

"What I have to do in the short time I have left is to get the steel business on to a firm footing, and I am passionately dedicated to this," Sir Charles said.

Mr Murray rejects call to reaffirm picketing guidelines

By Our Labour Staff

The TUC last night brushed aside the call by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, to reaffirm its guidelines on picketing to affiliated unions.

In a letter to Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, Mr Prior spoke of the "widespread public concern" over mass picketing and blocking, but in a reply Mr Murray said the amendments to the Employment Bill were "yet another highly dangerous set of proposals to curb workers' rights and trade union safeguards. This unfortunately makes the chances of fruitful cooperation between the TUC and the Government more remote".

Our Labour Editor writes:

Trade union leaders meet to-day to discuss a counter-offensive to the Government's proposal to curtail trade union immunities for secondary strikes and blocking during industrial disputes.

The TUC employment policy and organization committee, which has already launched a campaign against the milder provisions of the Employment Bill already before Parliament, is expected to redouble its opposition.

Mr Murray, said last night that the unions would "press the Government not to proceed with these dangerous proposals and get round the table with the TUC to discuss the prob-

lems of inflation, unemployment and industrial relations".

In his statement, Mr Murray said: "Under pressure from their wider supporters, the Government are now intending to slap yet more stringent legal curbs on workers and unions. They would be spending their time better helping to resolve the steel dispute."

"It is entirely bogus for the Government to claim they are clarifying the law. The House of Lords has already done that in three very recent judgments."

"They are attacking the fundamental safeguards of workers and their unions, creating conditions in which no one can be sure what the law in disputes will be, and pushing employers and unions further into the quagmire of complex legal arguments and litigation while disputes drag on."

An even stronger response came from Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the technical and supervisory staff section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, who said:

"Despite their much-publicized differences Mr Prior and his Cabinet colleagues all aim to restrict local trade union action to the point where it is ineffective".

Our Labour Editor writes:

Private sector steel producers in the steel strike yesterday condemned the Prior proposals as "utterly useless".

Employers give grudging welcome to proposals

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Employers gave a grudging welcome to the Government's proposals to curb secondary industrial disruption last night. Opinions were split between those who advocate a gradual approach to trade union immunities and others who want radical changes at once.

There was some disappointment in the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Directors that there was no provision for companies to sue union leaders that individuals and to seek recompence from union funds.

The ABCC is to consult its 84 member chambers before making a formal response to the proposals. Among the other aspects it will consider will be the inclusion of immunity to main customers and suppliers.

One view is that phrases such as "a substantial part of their

business", when applied to second parties in a dispute, offer loopholes.

Some ABCC members also fear that the proposals give unions undue scope for artificially creating disputes which technically relate to contracts of employment, to give sympathetic support to fellow trade unionists in a different company.

Although individual members are becoming increasingly angry about secondary disruption in the steel strike, the Confederation of British Industry's collective policy continues to be moderate. The CBI yesterday described the process of trade union immunities as "complex" and said: "It is therefore right that the Government should limit its present proposals to deal with the immediate situation and then proceed by consultation and consensus."

Text of Cabinet proposals on secondary industrial action

The working paper on secondary industrial action, published yesterday, stated:

"In the case of a strike in furtherance of a trade dispute can severely curtail the freedom of people who are not concerned in the dispute to carry on their business and for that purpose to have free access to or from their place of work and to their customers and suppliers. Those so damaged are harmed from exercising their normal rights to seek redress in the courts against such interference by the immunities given to those pursuing industrial action by the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 (TURLA) as amended by the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act 1976."

2. The Government have the law on immunities under review. They have already consulted on the appropriate limitation of the law in cases of secondary industrial picketing and have made provision for this in Clause 14 of the Employment Bill. In the Government's view recent interpretation and application of the law, notably by the House of Lords in the case of Exchequer Workers v MacShane, demonstrate the need for immediate amendment also of the law on immunities as it applies to other secondary industrial action, such as blacking.

THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Section 13 of the TURLA Act (as amended by the 1976 Act) which provides immunity for a person from being sued for acts done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute which induces or induces a body of contract workers to strike.

This is of great importance to trade unionists, because almost any industrial action involves a person, usually a trade union official, inducing others to break their contract of employment.

The immunity is of great respect that such a person would be at risk of being sued every time he called or threatened a strike. It is, however, of equally great importance to everyone that the immunity is to remove the immunity is to remove from those persons who are damaged by that action the right that they would otherwise have to obtain from the court such redress as may be appropriate to the damage being suffered.

4. The practical effect of the operation of the immunity should be made clear. First, people who sue union officials for inducing breaches of contract are not usually concerned with getting damages. They want the action stopped or stopped at once by an order from the court. It is unusual for legal proceedings to be pursued to a final order for damages. Even if damages are sought, there is a duty in law to do all that reasonably can be done to mitigate the loss that has been suffered and damages will be awarded only for loss which could reasonably have been avoided. Secondly, the courts will normally grant an injunction or interdict unless serious loss is being suffered which cannot be compensated for in money.

5. The scope of the immunity given by Section 13 for acts "in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute" was extended substantially in 1976. Before that (save for the period of operation of the Industrial Relations Act 1972-74), Section 13 of the Trade Disputes Act 1966, and subsequently Section 13 of the 1974 Act, provided immunity only for inducement of breaches of contracts of employment. However, the 1974 Act (Section 13(3)) was designed to establish, on a statutory basis, a wider immunity in certain cases. For instance, it enabled a person to induce employees to break their contracts of

employment as a means indirectly, and without legal liability, of preventing their employer from performing a contract of employment.

In 1976 the immunity was extended to inducing breaches of all contracts, whether directly or indirectly. From then on the immunity (as amended) can only be interfered with by contract which is to be made by the party to whom the immunity applies.

10. That decision was given in December 1979. Their Lordships found that, under the existing law, the immunity in "furtherance of a trade dispute" is wholly subjective, that is, it depends on whether the person taking the action honestly believes that it will further the cause of justice and the public interest.

The effect of this judgment seems to be that Section 13 is to be interpreted and applied as conferring immunity in every case in which, for example, a "blacking" of a particular contract of employment would be sufficiently clear. People need to know with greater certainty than that when and in what circumstances they are to be deprived of their right to protect their interests.

14. The Government propose that the existing legislation should be amended so as to achieve those objectives by a combination of two approaches:

(a) laying down certain tests which must be satisfied before Section 13 immunity can be claimed in respect of any industrial action; and

(b) restoring to parties damaged in the circumstances to be entitled to bring civil proceedings to protect themselves from interference with commercial contracts by means of secondary industrial action.

(a) General tests

15. In future, in order to achieve immunity under Section 13, any industrial action taken by employees in a trade dispute would first need to satisfy two tests. The action taken would need (a) to be reasonably capable of furthering the public interest, and (b) to be taken predominantly in pursuit of that trade dispute and not principally for some extraneous motive. In the case of any industrial action which failed to satisfy these tests, those damaged thereby would be free to exercise their normal right to seek an order from the court making the action stop it or pay compensation.

In these circumstances this would apply in relation to inducements to break or interfere with any contract, whether a commercial contract or a contract of employment.

(b) Those whose rights would be restored

16. These two tests of capability and motive are not sufficient on their own to get more reasonable limits to secondary industrial action. Even if both tests were met, some secondary action is clearly too remote from the original dispute to justify depriving those who are damaged by it of their right to obtain redress in the courts. So, in addition to these two general tests, it is proposed that persons should be free to bring civil proceedings for any interference with their commercial contracts or their trade disputes by industrial action which took place beyond bounds that would be set in statute.

17. These bounds would be set as follows. Where the immunity is to break or interfere with any commercial contract arising in connection with an industrial action, the person inducing the breach or dispute would continue to have immunity under Section 13, even if the action in the case of a primary action, or one whose commercial content was not sufficient to obtain a result would be able to obtain redress in the courts.

18. Exactly the same position

will hold in the case of sec-

ondary industrial action by employees of those first suppliers or customers of the employer in dispute who were not directly involved in the dispute but who were

involved in the dispute by their

employment as a means of

protecting their commercial

interests.

In short, there must be restored to many of those who were deprived of such rights in 1974 and 1976 their rights at common law to seek the protection of the courts against any who interfere unreasonably with their commercial affairs.

19. There were some hopes, particularly following the decision of the Court of Appeal in the MacShane case, that this develop-

Water men to get fresh pay offer

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

On the eve of today's mass

meeting of 17,000 BL Long-

bridge workers to vote on a

strike recommendation, Mr

Alan Cook, managing director of BL Cars, said last night: "Austin Morris can face an extended strike at Longbridge over this or any other issue. A decision to strike is likely to determine the fate of Austin Morris as a whole."

The meeting has been called

to vote on an Amalgamated

Union of Engineering Workers'

recommendation for official

strike action to secure the

reinstatement of Mr Derek

Robinson, the dismissed shop

stewards' leader.

The employers 19.2 per cent

offer, made earlier this month,

was recommended by the

union leadership but rejected

by the delegates.

Yesterday Mr Horrocks, accompa-

nied by Mr Harold

Musgrave, Austin Morris's

managing director, toured the

factory.

The offer, which would not

have involved any loss of pay,

was quickly rejected by local

officials of the engineering

union who have strongly

urged workers to vote for

strike action.

Yester-

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1980.**1984.**

Mercedes 200	£7823
Ford Granada 2.3GL	£7693
Audi 100L 5S	£6690
Rover 2300	£6576
Renault 20TS	£6414
Volvo 244DL	£5995

Let's assume the year is now 1984.

Four years ago you bought a new Volvo 244DL. At the time it seemed a pretty good bet.

In terms of performance, space and economy there was little to choose between the Volvo and its rivals, give or take a few seconds, inches and mpg.

In terms of equipment the Volvo couldn't be faulted; headlamp wash-wipers, a tachometer, a heated driver's seat and 4 inertia-reel seat belts all came as standard.

And the Volvo did cost substantially less.

Looking back to 1980, do you still believe you made the right choice?

Well, if all the surveys by motoring magazines and consumer organisations hold true, you will have no regrets.

Time and time again the Volvo has come out as having fewer breakdowns than the average car, fewer major faults and fewer days off the road.

Or to put it another way, less expense for the Volvo owner.

So even if Orwell's vision of 1984 has become fact, at least you'll have one thing to smile about.

AND BEYOND.

Many a car begins to show its age after 4 or 5 years' hard use.

Yet at this point a Volvo isn't even approaching middle age, let alone retirement. Statistics compiled by the Swedish Government show that Volvos last longer than any other car tested, giving an average of 17.9 years' service before that final journey to the scrapyard.

Obviously we're not suggesting you keep your Volvo this length of time.

But we are pointing out that their reliability and durability is well-known amongst those looking for a second-hand car.

Consequently, used Volvos tend to fetch a very good price indeed.

And there's nothing like a big cheque to soften the blow of parting with a car that's given you so much faithful service over the years.



VOLVO. A CAR WITH STANDARDS.

(PRICES ARE FOR MANUAL VERSIONS INCLUDING CAR TAX & VAT AT THE CURRENT RATE.) FOR THE 1980 EDITION OF VOLVO FACTS WRITE TO: DEPT. T.09 VOLVO CONCESSIONARIES LTD, LONDON W13 8JG. PRICES FOR THE NEW 1980 200 SERIES START FROM £5995 (DELIVERY & NUMBER PLATES EXTRA). ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. SALES TEL: HIGH WYCOMBE (0494) 33444. SERVICE TEL: IPSWICH (0473) 72026. PARTS TEL: CROYDON (0786) 823311. SOURCE: SWEDISH MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION CO. 1978.

HOME NEWS

Inquiry into nuclear test drilling in Ayrshire opens to an objector's shout of 'farce'

From Ronald Faux

There was an abrasive start yesterday to the public inquiry into the proposal to drill holes in Muilwarcher Hill, Ayrshire as part of a nuclear research programme.

Mr William Campbell, the reporter, had hardly declared the hearing open in Ayr town hall, when an objector shouted that the inquiry was a farce and an offence to natural justice.

The man was protesting at the narrow remit of the inquiry which is into an application by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to make test borers in the granite of the hill and to set up a few temporary huts.

The counsel for the two local authorities opposing the application, the Kyle and Carrick and the Cumnock and Doon district councils, said they were

reserving their position over the restrictions placed on Mr Campbell by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Campbell told the objectors he would listen as patiently as possible to their wide variety of arguments but he said the scope of the inquiry concerned boreholes and huts. No one would be prevented from calling evidence about the disposal of nuclear waste but the further their points ranged from the main scope of the inquiry, the more they could expect to be summarised in his report.

A businessman from Edinburgh, representing "the people of Scotland", objected to the dumping of nuclear fission waste but did not intend to sit around in Ayr for weeks. He made his point and left.

Mrs Marjorie Linklater, of the Orkney "no uranium" campaign, said the report after an examination in public in Orkney of their objections had been "most partial, and heavily weighted against the feelings of the local authorities and the people". Mr Campbell conducted the Orkney inquiry.

Mr William Scott, Under Secretary at the Scottish Development Department, dealing with policy on nuclear waste management, told the inquiry that no decision had been taken on whether high-level radioactive waste would ever be disposed of underground.

Given the scope of the research programme and the length of time likely to be required to carry it out, it would be at least 10 years before a decision was made on likely sites for a repository.

The inquiry is likely to last several weeks.

Atom waste ships are defended

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Waste nuclear fuel is a less hazardous cargo to carry by sea than many other materials transported by ship as a matter of routine, according to British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

The company expresses that view in a reply to a study made for the Greenpeace Foundation which rates the hazards of handling nuclear waste cargoes, and in particular the potential severity of a release of radioactivity from a fire on a ship.

British Nuclear Fuels maintains that the principal line of defence against an accidental release of radioactivity lies in the inherent safety of the flasks, which are designed to meet standards agreed by a group of international experts.

Other precautions avoid the hazards attributed by Greenpeace to transport by sea, the company says. The complaints about the vessel Pacific Swan which carries nuclear waste from Japan to Barrow, are based on a totally unrealistic sequence of events, it is claimed.

That observation exposes the fundamental gulf between supporters and opponents of nuclear power, because there are certain hypotheses about accidents that the first group rejects as incredible and the second group regards as probable.

The survey undertaken for the Greenpeace Foundation by the Political Ecology Research Group, Oxford, describes how severe radioactive contamination could result from a fire spreading to a ship's cargo holds.

The contamination would be released into the atmosphere because fire-fighting equipment on board, or a land-based service in a port like Barrow, Our Whitemore Correspondent writes: The atomic dumping site at Drigg, west Cumbria, has become one of the best unofficial wildlife sanctuaries in the country, British Nuclear Fuels says.

It says that as the nuclear waste vessels carry no flammable cargo and have only fuel oil on board, an outbreak of fire is a remote risk.

There is a limited supply of oil to the holds and fuel oil is carried in several separate tanks, the company says.

Sites for nuclear stations

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impurities in water in stopping corrosion.

The company is trying to take extra water from West Water for use at the plant.

Yesterday, the twenty-second day of the hearing, two scientists representing the company described the quality of water needed at the plant.

Dr Raymond Shaw, head of the corrosion section at Windscale, described the corrosion behaviour of water on stainless steel used to contain radioactive liquids at the plant, and the importance of various

impurities in water in stopping corrosion.

Mrs Cyril Dome, station chemist at the plant, dealt with the analysis of water samples from a number of sources and explained the present and intended methods of obtaining demineralised water.

Both emphasized the company's need for high quality water from West Water for use at the plant.

Dr Shaw said the company had been using West Water for the past 28 years and was very satisfied with it.

The inquiry continues.

Extra water 'vital to Windscale plant'

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

Plans for a multimillion-pound reprocessing plant at the Windscale nuclear complex will be in jeopardy unless extra water is made available, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr John Whittle, British Nuclear Fuels' deputy chief engineer, told the two lakes in Whitehaven that unless the company could be guaranteed the extra water needed for the thermal oxide reprocessing plant, the development might not go ahead.

He said they had to be sure

all their water requirements could be met before plans for the expansion could begin.

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South-east house prices widen cost-of-living gap

By David Nicholson-Lord

The cost of living gap between the south-east and the rest of the country continues to widen, higher house prices being largely to blame, according to a report published yesterday.

The latest inflation Bulletin from Reward Regional Surveys, of Staffordshire, shows that life in the South-east is 11.8 per cent more expensive than the regional average, including the Greater London area, compared with 9.9 per cent last year. The gap has increased steadily from a low point of 6.4 per cent in 1977.

Without housing costs, where the South-east is half as costly again as the average, the gap narrows to half a percentage point.

A restricted day for Vikings

The organizers of the Vikings exhibition at the British Museum have warned the public to stay away on Monday mornings because that time is reserved for school parties.

The organizers said yesterday that hundreds of people had turned up on Monday to see the exhibition and found that only school groups were being admitted. More than 20,000 people have visited the exhibition, which continues until July 20.

Athina B at the breakers

The Athina B, the wrecked Greek coaster which became a tourist attraction at Brighton, arrived at a breakers yard at Rainham, Kent, yesterday.

The ship was refloated from Brighton beach on Sunday, but ran aground again 300 yards from her destination on Monday while being towed in the Medway. Three tugs dislodged her from a mudbank.

Murder charge

Brian Taitby, aged 46, a process worker, of Valda Vale, Birmingham, Humberstone, was remanded in custody for week end charged with the murder of his daughter, Collette, aged 12, on February 4.

Family dies in crash

A boy aged two and his parents were found dead yesterday in the wrecked cab of an articulated lorry which overturned at Barton Mills, Suffolk. They are believed to have come from Wales.

The Law Society defends its insurance scheme

The Law Society argued in the High Court yesterday that it had acted conscientiously in setting up a compulsory scheme to insure solicitors against civil liability for professional negligence or breach of duty.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, for the Law Society, told Mr Justice Slade that a complaint that the Law Society had exceeded its legal powers in setting up the scheme was a by-product of the discontent felt by some solicitors.

Mr Alexander was replying to submissions on behalf of two solicitors who are seeking a declaration that the indemnity scheme does not comply with rules made under the Solicitors Act, 194, and is null and void.

Mr James Swain, who practises from Staple Inn, London, and Mr Alan McLaren, of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, are also asking the judge to decide whether or not the Law Society is entitled to retain, for its own purposes, brokers' commissions received from the insurers on premiums paid by solicitors.

The hearing continues today.

Mr David Lipsey, a journalist from the Staple Inn, London, and Mr Alan McLaren, of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, are also asking the judge to decide whether or not the Law Society is entitled to retain, for its own purposes, brokers' commissions received from the insurers on premiums paid by solicitors.

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HOME NEWS

'Severance pay' plan is urged to avoid splitting Labour vote

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Proposals for the "automatic reselection" of Labour Party candidates by each constituency party, whether or not it has a sitting MP, are supported by the Labour Parliamentary Association in its submission to the commission of inquiry considering the party's future organization.

The association, commonly known as the party's "candidates' trade union", has about 500 members, most of them candidates who have contested general elections or are potential candidates looking for a constituency to adopt them.

Some MPs belong, the chairman being Mr Ernest Roberts, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, and the vice-chairman Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover.

The association says that each constituency party should "during the term of a parliament" call a selection conference to select its general election candidate. It thinks the present procedure should be retained.

The General Management Committee delegate system of parliamentary selection is, in general, an honest reflection of Labour members' views and is not normally susceptible to

corruption or subsequent dispute, as might easily be the case were all Labour members eligible to vote at a selection conference, whether in person or by post," the association says.

When an MP retires, as a result of being unsuccessful at a selection conference or for any other reason, the association considers that he or she should be compensated by some form of severance pay.

Any inducement to stand against the party as an independent should be eliminated, the candidates say, "and reasonable severance pay would seem to be the just method of achieving this."

Severance pay should be dealt with by legislation, not left to the constituency party to pay, nor to the Labour Party centrally, "for in no sense is an MP an employee either of the CLP or of the Labour Party".

This proposal would obviously require the consent of a Commons majority, so would have to await an election at which Labour gained a substantial majority (even assuming the party endorsed it); but there are indications that if sitting Labour MPs are forced out, they would stand as independents.

Ulster economic policy attacked

From Annabel Ferriman

Belfast

The Social Democratic and Labour Party attacked British economic policy in Northern Ireland yesterday, saying that after 60 years of British rule the overpowering picture was of a collapsing economy.

In a paper presented to the parallel conference at Stormont in which the SDLP is meeting Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the party says that the British Government's rule, through Stormont and afterwards, has brought "neither peace, stability, nor good government".

It says that the province has the lowest industrial earnings in the United Kingdom, the highest unemployment and the

highest rate of emigration. It also has the highest rate of infant mortality, the lowest life expectancy and the poorest standard of living.

Manufacturing industry is in drastic decline, labour shed by agriculture has nowhere else to turn, and the growth rate is at zero. The province has the highest dependence on social security, the greatest reliance on income maintenance and the average standard of living is 78 per cent of that of the United Kingdom.

The paper says that while unrest in the province has discouraged industry, it has provided additional employment for prison officers, security guards in private employment, policemen and army reservists. If peace were to come to

morrow, and allowing that the Royal Ulster Constabulary reserve force were to remain at its present strength of 6,642, there would be at least 15,000 people left jobless.

The party accuses civil servants in Northern Ireland of dragging their feet on cross-border economic cooperation. It says that opportunities exist for cooperation with the Republic's Industrial Development Authority, its Export Promotion Board, the electricity authorities and others.

Forty-six public bodies were appointed in full or part by the British Government and all were dominated by unionists, the party says. The British Government had not made use of them to encourage a partnership administration.

IRA admits murder of British colonel

From Our Own Correspondent

Belfast

The Provisional IRA yesterday claimed responsibility for the murder of Colonel Mark Coe of the British Army of the Rhine in Bielefeld, West Germany, at the weekend and at the same time admitted the murder of Sir Richard Sykes, British Ambassador to The Hague, last March.

Colonel Coe, aged 43, a father of six, was shot as he was parking his car outside his house on Saturday. Sir Richard, aged 58, was shot as he was about to drive from his residence to the Embassy, last March 22.

The Provisional IRA claimed in a statement issued in Dublin

that Sir Richard had engaged in intelligence operations against its members and was therefore more important than other ambassadors.

Colonel Coe, who had been in Ireland in 1972, was "executed in an army which is engaged in oppressing the nationalists in the occupied six counties", the statement said.

The reason for these attacks is crystal clear: the continued occupation of part of our country. Other British oppressors wherever they be stationed should know that by no means have we finished."

The statement also said that the IRA was responsible for bombing in British Army bases



Miss Pears 1979 : Christine Cashman, aged five, of South Croydon, posing before her portrait yesterday after she had unveiled it at the Royal Academy, London. It was painted by Crispin Thornton-Jones, of Crayford, Hertfordshire, whose work at last year's Royal Society of Portrait Painters Exhibition in London attracted the attention of A. & F. Pears.

WEST EUROPE

15 million starlings pick French farms clean

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 19

The countryfolk in the remote commune of La on the Finistere peninsula of Brittany might be excused at the moment for believing they are living in a scene from the Alfred Hitchcock thriller *The Birds*. They are doing battle with about 15 million starlings which are threatening their livelihood.

The birds arrived at the end of January, huge clouds of them, from neighbouring Cesson to the east, where they had already exhausted the food supplies.

The local council has been doing its best to get rid of them, letting off hundreds of fireworks and firing bird scarers. The noise of battle rolls across the normally quiet countryside.

So far, however, it has all been to no avail. The birds remain and each day they eat about 30 tons of corn—20 grams a bird—because silos offer no defence. In desperation, the town is thinking of calling in the army.

Earlier this month farmers in the St Lo area faced a similar invasion of starlings. Five million of them were using a wood as a dormitory and they refused to move despite being "bombed" from a helicopter with a chemical jelly.

According to a scientist at the Musum of Natural History in Paris the gathering of great clouds of starlings has become increasingly common in recent years due to the tendency to create larger farms.

This has meant the destruction of hedgerows and copses, the natural habitats of the animals like martens and weasels which prey on the birds' eggs. This ecological change has led to an explosion in the starling population.

According to the French National Institute for Agronomy Research, starlings ate 216,000 tons of food in France during 1978. Farmers in Lax have no reason to think that figure is an exaggeration.

His wife called on all Russians to forget their fears to

Action fortnight brings political rift between France's main union groups to a climax

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 19

The largest trade union group in France, the Communist-dominated CGT, has begun a much-heralded "fortnight of action" aimed at increasing union militancy on the shop floor throughout the country. But already it has caused a split with the second largest union group, the Socialist CPDT.

The meeting went on for four hours, although for half that time the two sides were meeting separately, discussing their positions in the light of what had been said while they were together.

The point at issue was the CGT's insistence that the fortnight of action should be limited to pressing the case for better salaries, jobs and conditions. The CPDT could not accept that a union's obligations to its members ended there and insisted that the political beliefs of the unions should not be ignored.

What was worrying the Socialist union was the fact that the CGT had taken up a strongly pro-Soviet stance after the invasion of Afghanistan and the exile of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident scientist.

The trouble came out into the open on January 29 after a top-level meeting between the leaders of the two union groups. The omens for that meeting were already not auspicious and they proved right.

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The CGT promptly rounded on the Socialists, accusing them of being scared of joining the fortnight of action. M. Charles Seguy, the leader of

the CGT, said at the weekend that the CPDT had categorically refused to join in a common declaration renouncing the fight for better conditions.

That has stung M Albert Mercier, the national secretary of the CPDT, to reply that these continual attacks are destroying any chance of united action based on a clear agreement on objectives and styles of action.

The style of action preferred by the CGT is still this fortnight's variety, complete with a traditional rally in Paris on Thursday, led by M Seguy. The Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* has launched it today with a long list of individual cases in which it alleges that workers have been persecuted by employers, in one instance to the point of suicide.

The importers' statement was the latest in a series of complaints from Britain about the working of the common agricultural policy. Mr Leigh said that the level of protection given to EEC farmers against imported produce was too great and too costly.

Mr Peter Gibbons, manager of A. J. Mills & Co, said that the extra duty imposed by the EEC on corned beef from our side added 7p a lb to the cost of the product in British shops.

Mr Leigh said that canned foods like salmon and pineapple attracted heavy taxes when they came into the Community even though there were no equivalent products in Europe.

EEC subsidies to Italian growers had encouraged a doubling of Italian tomato output in the past two years and an expansion of the acreage of peaches. "Before too long we are going to have piles of peaches and tomato swamps to add to the mountainous and white lakes", he said.

Mr Leigh, who is president of Frucor, the EEC association of processed food importers, has called for further reductions in public spending.

Ministers have been unable to agree on the level of the spending cuts after weeks of discussion. Last night, the Cabinet took the unusual step of taking a decision by a vote and the outcome was to reduce spending by some 3,000 guilders (about £700m).

"Who is paying?" he asked. "The taxpayer, of course. It is crazy when traditional suppliers in countries like South Africa and Australia could provide those peaches at the same price as Italy without any cost to the taxpayer."

He said that duties on imports and subsidies to EEC growers should be cut, and that the subsidies should be paid only on limited amounts of food.

Dutch Cabinet splits over spending cuts

Amsterdam, Feb 19

The Dutch Government, a coalition of Christian Democrats and conservative Liberals, has introduced political public spending for further reductions in public spending.

Ministers have been unable to agree on the level of the spending cuts after weeks of discussion. Last night, the Cabinet took the unusual step of taking a decision by a vote and the outcome was to reduce spending by some 3,000 guilders (about £700m).

At loggerheads are Mr Wil Albeda, the Social Affairs Minister, who is reported to be opposed to reducing public spending by more than 2,000 guilders, and Mr Frans Andriesen, the Finance Minister, who wants cuts of at least double that amount.

"To appreciate Lufthansa, once in a while, one has to fly another airline."

This is an authentic passenger statement.

Inquiry into second house fire in Anglesey

From Our Correspondent

Llandudno

Police in North Wales said yesterday that a second holiday home fire has been discovered in Anglesey, a few miles from the cottage found badly damaged on Monday.

The latest incident is at Tycroes and involved a holiday cottage owned by a local estate company. There had been a break-in and attempt to start a fire, but the only damage was caused by smoke.

Yesterday forensic scientists were at the scene of the other fire at Newborough, in which a bedroom of a holiday cottage owned by Mr Frank Nugent, an electrical engineer, and his wife of Audeshaw, Greater Manchester, was badly damaged. Later the scientists examined the Tycroes cottage.

The two incidents have brought the number of holiday home fires in Wales to 19. The incidents began in December and a group of nationalists, extremists is believed to be responsible.

Ex-MP says police forced him to undress

Raymond Blackburn, the campaigner against pornography, complained at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, that he had been forced to remove his underpants in the presence of two smirking young police officers. He draped a pair of grubby pants over the dock and brandished them at officers while questioning them about how he was searched at West End Central police station.

Mr Blackburn, aged 64, a former Labour MP of Homefield Road, Chiswick, London, denied being drunk and disorderly. He was fined £5 and ordered to pay £15 costs.

He told the court he was an alcoholic who rarely drank. On September 8 last year he had consumed brandy and champagne.

He accused the police of lying about his behaviour, and said he would take further action against them. He accused Mr David Hopkin, the magistrate, of being a "police magistrate, of being a police magistrate, and said: "I think it is scandalous that this country should be turned into a police state." He said: "There is absolutely no evidence of being disorderly."

Getaway car of building society gunman found

An escape car used by a gunman who held hostage a building society manager, his wife and their son, aged three months, at their house during the weekend has been found. The white Marca was parked outside Woodford Underground station, east London.

Police, who found it after a street-to-street search, believe the gunman drove straight here on Monday morning after escaping with £11,000 from a Halifax

Plan to revitalise docks is backed on Merseyside

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool

Merseyside County Council, which had bitterly opposed the Government plan to set up an urban development corporation to revitalise the derelict South Docks at Liverpool, yesterday gave its approval, subject to certain reservations. It denied making a U-turn.

The council carried with one dissenting vote a resolution emphasising the need to cooperate with the scheme now that it had become government policy. It unanimously welcomed the fact that Sir Kenneth Thompson, county council chairman, who had opposed the plan, had agreed to become deputy chairman of the corporation.

Burns ClubA report in *The Times* on January 23 about a Burns dinner in Moscow has been taken to imply that the Edinburgh Burns Club had met and considered the matter, and that no objections to proceeding with the arrangements had been raised. That is a misunderstanding of the position. The club had not met since the invasion of Afghanistan, and its president had made no statement on its behalf. **Lufthansa**
German Airlines

WEST EUROPE

East-West scientists meet under an international cloud

From Patricia Clough

Hamburg, Feb 19

About 300 leading scientists from East and West are gathered here for two weeks' discussions on cooperation, knowing full well that the results will be meagre. They are in Hamburg because the 35 countries of the 1975 Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe agreed to improve exchanges, contacts and collaboration in the scientific field.

But there are few illusions here on either side. The more optimistic hope that after the conference they will be able to recommend to their governments that they collaborate on certain projects in the fields of energy, food production, and medical and sociological research.

But the Scientific Forum, as the conference is called, will not remove the real obstacles to collaboration, in particular the restrictions on the movement of Eastern European scientists, Western delegates say.

Lord Todd, the president of the Royal Society and head of the British delegation, complained in strong terms about the trouble caused to organizers of scientific meetings who frequently invite individual Soviet scientists, often offering generous expenses, only to have their invitations ignored, rejected, or accepted and then canceled at the moment without explanation.

As his American and French colleagues pointed out, feeling among Western scientists about the Soviet Union's persecution of its scientists involved in human rights activities, is so strong that many are refusing to collaborate with Soviet scientists until the situation improves.

The forum is providing an opportunity for the scientists to make contacts; as a Russian delegate put it, there are two conferences, one official

Demand for release of Corsicans

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 19

The families of 36 people held since the violent disturbances in Corsica last month have been mounting a strong campaign for their release. Today, a delegation of 20 women, wives or other relatives of the prisoners, called on the Prefect of southern Corsica to ask his help in obtaining their rapid release from prison in Paris.

The arrests followed the strong police action in Ajaccio and Bastia after militant autonomists took opponents hostage and then captured an hotel. The 36 arrested there were in addition to 55 other Corsican nationalists already serving sentences.

Pressure for the release of all these prisoners has now resulted in the takeover of five village council offices on the island, and none of the mayors involved have asked for any police help to evict the occupiers.

Seven mayors from villages which are the homes of some of the prisoners went to see the Prefect of upper Corsica last week to tell him of the "anxiety of the people" in the face of the detention of so many breadwinners.

M. Jean Claude Thia, the examining magistrate investigating the January violence, has so far ordered the release of 20 prisoners.

Jail terms increased on appeal

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 19

Paul Perides, a former Cypriot tailor who became a leading authority on the French painter Utrillo and proprietor of an art gallery in Paris, had a sentence for theft and receiving lengthened by the court of appeal here yesterday.

Mr Perides, who is 79, was sentenced to three years' jail and fined 30,000 francs (£3,330).

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Mr Perides, who is 79, was sentenced to three years' jail and fined 30,000 francs (£3,330) by the lower court last April. Now he has to serve four years and pay 50,000 francs in fines.

Marc Franzelet was the middle man between two brothers who originally stole the 31 paintings involved from a collector in 1972 and passed them on to a painter, Claude Feneuvre. He had also appealed against sentences of three years and a 5,000 francs fine. He was given the same jail term but his fine increased to 15,000 francs.

The two brothers, Patrick and Jean-Pierre Hillairaud, who had been discharged by the lower court, were both found guilty by the appeal court and warrants were issued for their arrest to serve five-year sentences and pay fines of 5,000 francs each.

M. Feneuvre, who took the paintings from Mr Perides had his sentence increased from two years to three and his fine from 5,000 to 10,000 francs.

M Barre urges industry to maintain buying power

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 19

M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, issued a rough warning to the captains of industry today that if they were to allow salary rises to absorb entirely the gains of productivity they could count on neither credit facilities, protectionist measures nor a strong currency.

Speaking to the Association of Friends of the French Republic he said that the maintenance of purchasing power was in these circumstances becoming more and more of an ambitious objective. The task of maintaining salaries at a level which is in line with the cost of living has been a professed cornerstone of M Barre's economic philosophy.

He was not totally disheartened, however. He was

sure that the vigour of French industry, high productivity and the progress of the French economy as a whole would make the objective possible "on the condition that the French workers know they must steer clear, as they have done up to now, of excessive claims and exaggerated inflations."

The Prime Minister also spelled out a six-point foreign policy for France. This was to maintain its nuclear deterrent; to stand by its allies; to avoid the existence of power blocks; to end the division of the world; work patiently for the organization of Europe; help developing countries, especially in Africa; and contribute everywhere to the independence of nations and the liberty of mankind.

Nation in decline but oil reserves viewed with envy

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 19

Britain's membership of the EEC posed the same type of problems as a heart transplant operation, with a periodic danger of rejection, the French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences was told last night.

The analogy was drawn by M. René Dabernat, a French journalist who is a specialist on Britain. His book, *Mémoires les Anglais*, published in 1976, is a standard work on the subject.

According to his paper, Britain, after dominating the world, has been showing signs of decline for the past 20 years; a decline linked to the loss of the empire. Internally the blame lay with the ageing industry and the cost of an over ambitious Welfare State.

Now after nearly 300 years turned towards the world at large, Britain had turned to

OVERSEAS

Decisive Trudeau victory in Canadian elections

From Patrick Brogan

Toronto, Feb 19

The Liberal Party won a decisive victory in the Canadian general election yesterday and Mr Pierre Trudeau will return to power after a nine-month interval. The Liberals won 48 per cent of the vote and 148 seats out of a total of 281, compared with 114 in the election last May.

Western scientists, delegates say, are also cool about becoming involved in projects which, since Western technology is more advanced, would mainly be a one-way traffic in favour of their Eastern colleagues and with little benefit to themselves.

The first few moments of the conference were somewhat painful as the local choir and orchestra started the inaugural concert in two entirely different keys. It looked as if political discord was to follow.

The Soviet delegation, the defensive from the start, had put it about that they would walk out if the subject of their dissident scientist was brought up.

It was in most emphatic terms—"British, American and, today, French delegates, but just as several Western delegations had resisted the temptation to boycott the conference, the East Europeans gritted their teeth and sat it out with nothing more than angry protests.

It appeared clear to diplomatic delegates in the forum that neither side wanted to take the action which would damage the prospects of the next "Helsinki" conference in Madrid in November.

British protest: The Council of the Royal Astronomical Society has sent a telegram to the Soviet Academy of Sciences condemning the restrictions placed on Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel prize winner, as a violation of human rights.

The telegram said they threatened relations between Soviet and British astronomers and geophysicists and endangered the continuation of scientific exchanges.

candidates died during the campaign. The Liberals will

Liberal: last May and in the space of by-elections in October, 1978. In one constituency, for instance, York-Scarborough, a Tory majority of 30,000 in 1978, reduced to 3,000 last year, became a Liberal majority of 8,000 this time.

Things look very different in the West. In the four provinces and two territories west of Ontario, the Liberals managed to win two seats only, both in Manitoba.

The NDP did well in the West, particularly in British Columbia, where the Liberals lost their one seat. The NDP won 15 and the Tories 10. Only Alberta, Mr Clark's home province, remained faithful to the Conservatives, returning all its 21 Tory MPs.

Power in the West, therefore, is divided between Conservatives and NDP. Ontario remains the country's chief electoral battlefield. Quebec and the French districts of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are overwhelmingly Liberal, and Conservatives and Liberals divided up the rest of the Maritimes. None of the three parties

can any longer make any serious pretence to being a national party.

The two issues that decided the election were the question of leadership and energy policy. The country clearly preferred Mr Trudeau, after Mr Clark's poor showing during the nine-month Conservative interregnum.

Mr Clark was thought a blunderer. He made a number of unimportant but conspicuous mistakes that damned him in the eyes of the electorate, particularly in Ontario. The voters then forgot their former intense hostility to Mr Trudeau.

Paradoxically, Mr Clark was defeated in Parliament last December for exercising too much leadership. He spurned the compromises which usually

rule a minority Government.

He grasped the oil nettle, determining that the price of oil in Canada must reflect world prices and that the only way to reduce consumption was to increase the cost of petrol. He proposed a modest 18 cents a gallon excise tax on petrol in the budget and the Government was defeated.

Besides promising that oil prices would not be allowed to go up as far as Mr Clark wanted, Mr Trudeau avoided setting out a clear energy policy. Canada imports a third of its oil and, like the United States, is clinging to its cheap petrol and high consumption, despite the balance of payments deficits and inexorable inflation the policy brings in its wake.

The electorate voted for the present price of petrol of about \$1.05 (56 pence) a gallon. The Liberals' comfortable majority gives them the possibility of reversing themselves smartly and implementing a tough energy policy. Such a move might shock the electorate but there need be no new elections before 1984.

Such a change might be easier if Mr Trudeau carries out his promise to resign soon. His numerous opponents in the party expect him to stand down before a party convention in the autumn.

Quebec confidence: In what was more a plebiscite than an election in Quebec, the province re-elected Mr Trudeau, its "favourite son", with a vote of

full confidence. The Liberals captured every seat in the province except one, which went by a narrow margin to the Conservatives. (Anne Penketh writes from Montreal).

One political commentator summed up the results this: "In Quebec the Liberals are in first place. Everyone else in no place."

Mr Roch Lassalle, the successful Tory candidate, a former minister in the Clark Cabinet, expressed concern for the future of Quebec with a confrontation Prime Minister, like Pierre Trudeau, back in power. He has always said that he would never negotiate with René Lévesque and that kind of strategy is very unhealthy."

The election dealt a death blow to the Social Credit Party, seen by many as representing the protest vote from the country.

The New Democratic Party had cause for celebration in Quebec since despite winning no seats, it doubled its share of the popular vote and its several constituencies replaced Conservatives and Social Creditists in second place.

US envoy meets Palestinians

Jerusalem, Feb 19.—Mr Donald McHenry, the United States representative at the United Nations, had lunch today with three Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank of Jordan.

Mr McHenry, who is on a Middle East fact-finding tour, met in east Jerusalem Mr Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, Mr Anwar Nusseiba, a former Jordanian Defense Minister, and Mr Hikmat Al-Masri, a notables from the West Bank town of Nablus.

Mr Nusseiba refused several weeks ago to confer with Mr Sol Linowitz, a special United States delegate to the Palestinian autonomy talks he told reporters. "Ambassador McHenry represents his country which is an international body while Ambassador Linowitz came here for a specific purpose which I do not accept."

Palestinian leaders have rejected the Camp David accords signed by Egypt, Israel and the United States to grant autonomy for the Palestinians in occupied Arab territories.

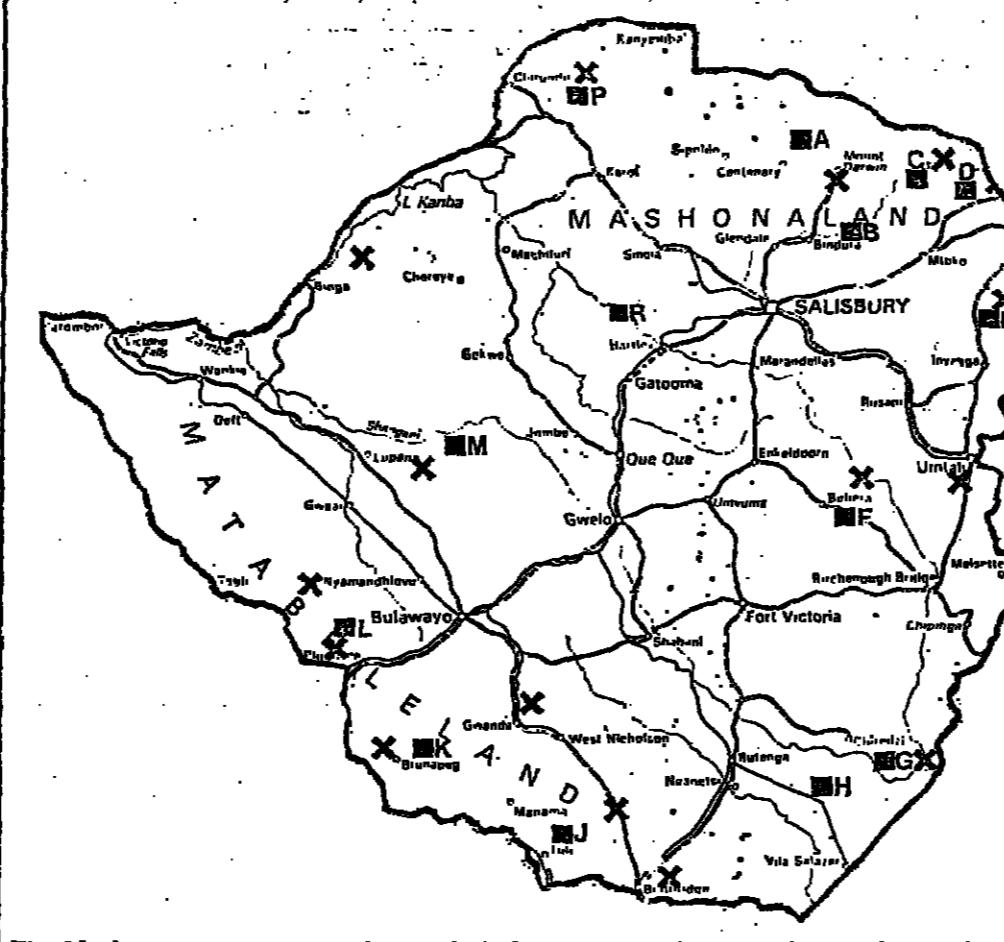
Mr Al-Masri said: "We are not optimistic about the United States position, because the United States still supports Israel although it is against the unification of Jerusalem and settlements (on occupied Arab land)."

Petition fails: The Israeli Supreme Court rejected today a petition by Arab West Bank residents for an injunction to halt the expansion of a Jewish settlement in the occupied area.

Twenty-four Arab residents of Hebron had asked the court to stop the construction work at the Jewish suburb of Kiryat Arba, saying that they owned the land on which additional houses were being built.

The court ruled that the petitioners had not proved ownership of the land, which the Israeli Government says is state-owned. The court, however, gave them five days to submit their case to the military appeals court for further action.

Reuter.



The black squares represent the Patriotic Front assembly areas in Southern Rhodesia where a total of 480 Commonwealth troops are stationed. The crosses are airstrips.

Britain plans a phased withdrawal

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has drawn up plans for a phased, eight-day withdrawal of British and Commonwealth troops from Southern Rhodesia after this month's election. Soldiers in the Front's 14 assembly areas, most of them deep in the bush near the Rhodesian frontier.

The operation is expected to start after voting has ended on February 29, three days before the results of the election are due to be announced.

During the initial three-day phase most of the 1,400-strong Commonwealth monitoring group will be withdrawn to

Salisbury airfield where a tented transit camp is already being prepared.

Priority will be given to bringing back by helicopter or by road, the 480 troops who are living next to the Patriotic Front men in the Front's 14 assembly areas, most of them deep in the bush near the Rhodesian frontier.

Then the troops and essential stores will be taken by air back to Britain, while other equipment will return more slowly by rail and sea.

Because of the use of surface transport, the airlift will be less intense than that which New Zealand's monitoring group to Rhodesia

will be using. There will also be one air-mobile station.

A British spokesman tonight gave the figure of 196 as the new total of breaches of the ceasefire. Of these, 93 were attributed to the military wing of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) Party, with another 35 occurring in its former operational area. Twenty-three were put down to Zipra, the guerrilla army of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front party, with a further 11 in its former area of operations.

Of the rest, two breaches were attributed to the Rhodesian Security Forces (together with 11 cases of incitement by them of breaches of the ceasefire), 17 to bandits and 15 to unidentified parties.

Further, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister and leader of the UANC, claimed that the "euphoria" which greeted the return of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo was "disappearing into thin air".

He had returned from an election tour of the Midlands.

Chemist believes tests on Shroud shift burden of proof to sceptics

Continued from page 1

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Formation of the images by contact with a hot metal statue is discounted, because such images penetrate the fibre deeply and are poor and blurred. In contrast, the shadow-image on the Shroud was found to be well formed with excellent resolution, and there is no interpretation of the "blood stain" marks by the other type.

Dr Dinegar states: "While we search for additional hypotheses and information, we seem to be left with the tenuous suggestion that the cloth may have been discoloured in the manner we observe by a rapid deposition of energy in the fibres. As the increased temperature brought about by energy transfer, chemical reactions could produce different substances that would make an area appear dark."

He likens this to the darkening

OVERSEAS

Russia sharpens its warnings to Norway over Nato exercise and creation of an 'arc of crisis'

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 19

In their bluntest warning yet to Norway the Russians today accused the Oslo Government of deliberately trying to worsen Soviet-Norwegian relations and of helping the Americans create an arc of crisis on the Soviet frontier in the north to complement that in the south.

An article in *Pravda* signed, with a pseudonym used to express the views of the Soviet leadership, said Norway was joining in Washington's anti-Soviet course "without giving thought to the possible implications of this step".

Following the increasingly sharply-worded daily attacks on Norway in the Soviet Press over the forthcoming Nato exercises there next month, the party newspaper accused the Norwegian Government of deliberately allowing itself to be drawn into "unfriendly acts" against the Soviet Union.

The paper said this was no coincidence since Norway supported the Nato decision to deploy new nuclear missiles in Western Europe, which it said were intended to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union. Norway also supported the campaign to disrupt the Moscow Olympics and had cancelled planned meetings and contacts with the Soviet Union.

"The ruling circles of Norway are actually serving as accessories to the adventurist line pursued by the Carter Administration aimed at destroying international defence and unleashing a cold war."

The Russians are particularly worried about the present discussions between Norway and the United States of the stationing in Norway of enough American weapons and vehicles

to equip a brigade of 8,000 American soldiers.

Pravda repeated charges the Russians have made recently that military bases were being set up on Norwegian soil which would remain after the Nato exercise "Anorak Express" was over.

"Norway's transformation into an arsenal of foreign offensive weapons openly aimed at the Soviet Union cannot be described otherwise than as a departure of the Government from the principles of its own declared policy of not stationing foreign troops and nuclear weapons on Norwegian soil in times of peace—despite the assurances about a consistent observance of these principles repeatedly given by Norway."

An offer to negotiate all questions of disarmament in Europe was made last night by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Speaking at an election meeting address, he said the Russians were ready to go to the negotiating table if Nato repeated its decision to deploy new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, or if its implementation was officially halted.

The offer, similar to that made by the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in Warsaw last December, is marginally more flexible than Mr Gromyko's own earlier pronouncements. These insisted that Nato had removed the basis for any further talks by going ahead with its decision to deploy the weapons.

Mr Gromyko also called for a conference on military denuclearisation and disarmament in Europe, and said the Soviet Union would contribute to a successful meeting in Madrid of the countries that signed the Helsinki accords.

Australia to boost armed forces

Canberra, Feb 19.—Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, announced today that Australia's armed services will get more men and better equipment because of the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr Fraser told the Australian Parliament the build-up would cost at least an extra \$A95m (£46m) in the year beginning July 1. Defence spending would increase to 3 per cent of gross national product by 1985. Australia's current defence budget of \$A3,000m amounts to about 2.7 per cent of the gross national product.

Brandt plea for communist help to Third World

Brussels, Feb 19.—Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the International Development Commission, today urged communist states to play a greater role in helping the Third World.

The former West German Chancellor was answering questions on the second day of a European Parliament hearing on hunger after outlining his commission's report for the first time in Europe.

He said that as time passes, China, the Soviet Union and East Europe must take a greater share of the responsibility. We must try whatever possible to make clear to the East that they have a responsibility, not just to export propaganda.

The commission, set up in 1977 at the recommendation of Mr Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, has drafted lengthy analysis and recommendations on development.

Among its proposals is a world summit conference to draft guidelines for cooperation between industrialised and developing countries and to work out details of an emergency development programme for 1980-85.

The commission also gives warning of the crippling cost of the arms race. "We are literally in danger of arming ourselves to death", Herr Brandt said today.

He was elected to the European Parliament last June and is one of several development experts addressing the hearing.—Reuter.

In an hour-long speech Mr Fraser said aid to South Pacific nations, including allowances for increased surveillance facilities, would go up by 40 per cent to \$A120m to head off possible Soviet moves to gain influence in the area. Australia has also offered the United States staging facilities at the Cockburn naval base, Western Australia, he added.

Mr Fraser said the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was the greatest international crisis since the Second World War. "The Government has decided that the new strategic prospects call for a greater allocation of resources to our defences", he said.

Reuter

Large number of lakes in US polluted by industry

Washington, Feb. 19.—Two thirds of the lakes in the United States may be seriously polluted by toxic industrial wastes, a report by the Council on Environmental Quality said today.

It said there was increased evidence of ground water contamination often caused by the improper disposal of harmful wastes. About half of the population uses ground water for drinking.

"Wastes introduced into a lake can remain for years if not centuries", the council said. "As many as two thirds of the nation's lakes have serious pollution problems as a result."

"Urban lakes are particularly susceptible to man's influence. An estimated 80 per

cent of more than 3,700 urban lakes in the United States are significantly degraded."

It said toxic chemicals had made fish inedible in some lakes and rivers, while four million acres of commercial fish farms in America had been closed by pollution.

Many lakes in the northeast and United States and Canada could no longer support fish and other life because of increased rain acidity, resulting from the 50-fold increase in fossil fuel power plants in the last 25 years.

But the report found overall improvements in the quality of air between 1974 and 1977, the last year for which it had figures, mainly because of better exhaust filters on cars.

Official sources refused to say anything on the subject.

Two Koreas disagree on site for talks

From Jacqueline Redit
Seoul, Feb 19

North and South Korea failed to agree on the main item under discussion when they met for two and a half hours at the truce village of Panmunjom today.

For the second time this month, three-man delegations from the two Koreas met for talks to arrange meetings between Mr Li Jong Ok, the North Korean Prime Minister, and Mr Shin Byon Hwang, his South Korean counterpart. The main purpose of today's talks was to decide a site for the meeting.

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World use of energy 'grossly unbalanced'

The fourth in a series of articles on the report of the Brandt Commission
By Roger Berthoud

From the tone of their chapter on energy, and from other indications, it can be deduced that Herr Brandt and the 17 leading figures from the industrialised "north" and the developing countries of the "south" who formed his commission had some difficulty in recording their views on this topic.

The economics of oil, they point out in their report, have been controversial since the first commercial strike of oil in Pennsylvania in 1857. But it is now widely accepted that during the 1960s, when industrialised countries (a third) of the fuel used by the Third World for all purposes is only slightly more than the amount of petrol used by the industrialised world to move its cars.

Developing countries which import oil derive about two thirds of their commercial energy from it, a higher proportion than the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries (a half). While the North's consumption of oil has failed to reflect the depletion of resources. Oil was 25 per cent cheaper in 1970 in relation to the price of other goods than in 1955.

A higher price was essential to restrain consumption and to help ensure the consideration of long-term needs and the development of alternative fuels.

The use of energy in the world remains grossly unbalanced,

if they fail to manage this precious resource.

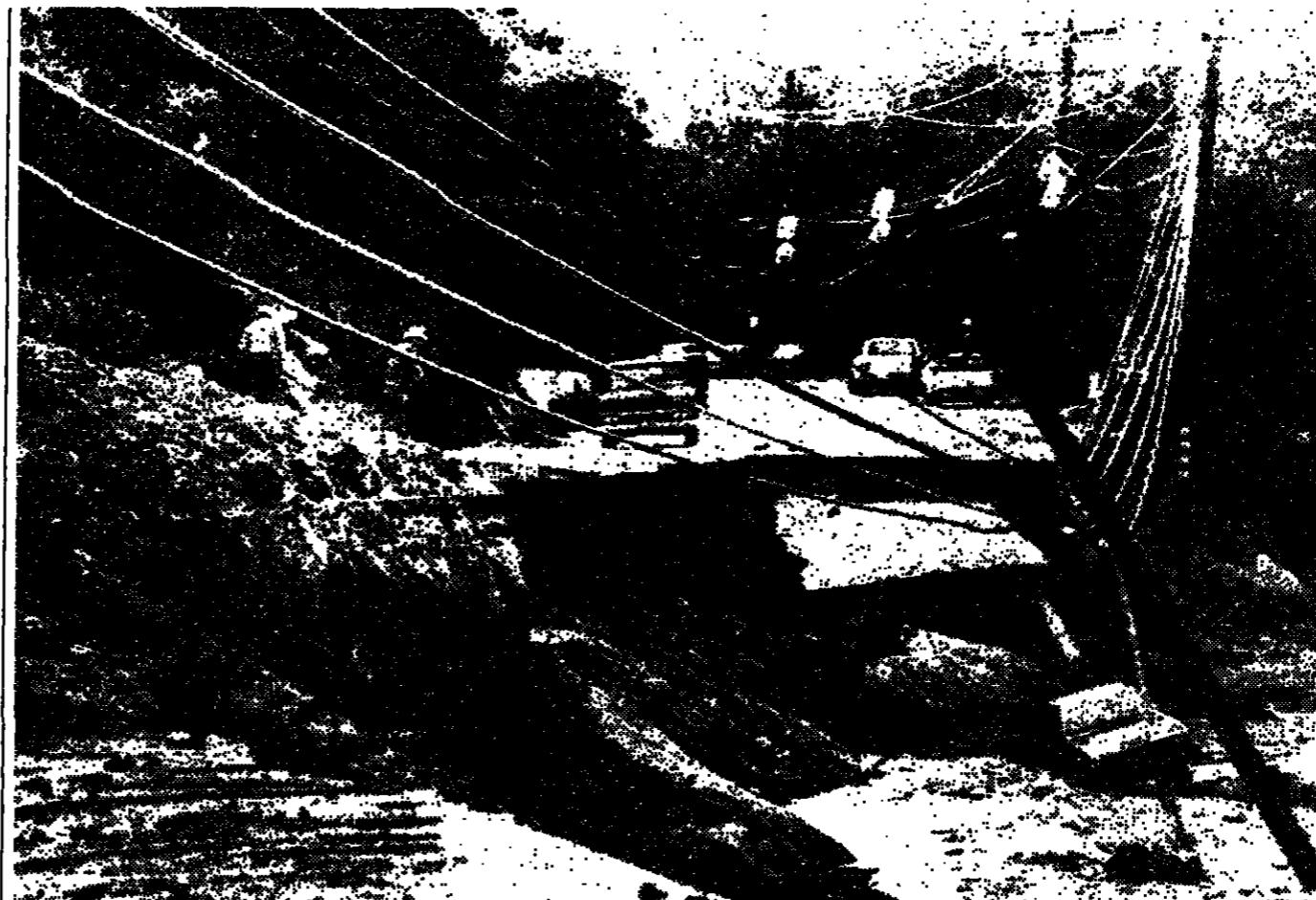
For oil exporters with a capital surplus, there is also the problem of what they receive in return. Both the health of the dollar and the long-term value of assets acquired are critical factors, to be weighed against the arguments for keeping a depletable and increasingly valuable resource underground.

Even if much new oil is discovered, the transfer to other energy sources will have to take place uncontrollably in the world.

The report says: "Ultimately the human community must rely on inexhaustible sources: solar energy in the broadest sense, and new forms of nuclear energy, supplementing hydroelectric and geothermal sources.

The nuclear option must be evaluated rationally" and soberly. Research on a large scale is needed to develop low-cost solar energy technology, which at some point could make many developing countries relatively well off in energy terms.

The need for an international accommodation to avert such dangers as supply disruptions and price surges, has been recognised since the crisis of 1973. But Opec sees oil as only part of the broader prob-



A section of the road through Topanga Canyon in southern California after it was washed away during six days of torrential rain in which 12 people were killed.

Zia plan to bring in civilians

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Feb 19

President Zia ul-Haq, of Pakistan, is expected to reveal his political plan for the country at the end of the month at a convention of leading figures from different walks of life.

He told reporters at Lahore airport today that the proposed national convention would be convened in the next 10 days. He did not elaborate on its objectives, but indicated that the Government would invite people regarded as leaders in different spheres of life. They would include public men, lawyers, businessmen and journalists, among others.

According to reports, the convention might pave the way for setting up cabinets and advisory councils at federal and provincial levels to help the martial law regime to broaden its base and associate citizens with government.

It is, however, likely that the proposed arrangement will function under martial law and though the proposed cabinets and advisory councils are intended to act as substitutes for elected governments and assemblies, they would have purely consultative status.

General Zia apparently does not contemplate a return to representative government through general elections for a long time to come.

General Zia parried question on a possible dialogue with the Soviet Union on Afghanistan and said it was a sensitive issue on which he would not say anything prematurely. He was asked by reporters whether Pakistan proposed to open talks with the Soviet Union on a basis of equality of sovereignty.

Lieutenant-General Faiz Ali Chisti, a minister in President Zia's Cabinet, left suddenly for an unnamed Arab state on an undisclosed important mission for the President, the press reported today.

Official sources refused to say anything on the subject.

Anger over Indian dissolutions

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Feb 19

The bold decision of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to dissolve the legislative assemblies and call for fresh elections in nine states under non-Congress governments came under fire today from *The Times of India*, which has resolutely supported her since she launched her election campaign on December 1.

In a leading article it complained that the move not only "adversely affects" India's federal constitution but that the Prime Minister had espoused the "dubious concept of recall of governments no longer enjoying popular support proposed by the late Jayaprakash Narayan, which she had 'rightly' and squarely opposed in 1974 and 1975".

It was not good for Mrs Gandhi to argue that the Janata Government after its victory in the 1977 general election did not, in nine states then ruled by Congress, Janata, the article said, did not possess the necessary experience to realize "what a dangerous precedent

it was for the Government to call for elections in the state of Bihar, the article said, he is not willing, apparently, to go back on this process to oblige the Government. It is unlikely to be completed before late April.

Mr Moraji Desai, the former Janata Prime Minister, who when in office was careful

to avoid direct personal criticism of Mrs Gandhi, has now joined in the chorus of disapproval.

Dissolution, he said, is undemocratic but all the steps so far taken by the Prime Minister, including various staff appointments in Uttar Pradesh and in Delhi, which has resolutely supported her since she launched her election campaign on December 1.

India must learn to work "a variegated policy in which different parties with different programmes are in power in different parts of the country", it said.

It is becoming clear that Sunday night's Cabinet decision was taken with post preparation of the groundwork by Mrs Gandhi's Home and Law Ministers.

No one in the Government has been able to give date for the state elections. Which since this country has been in a state of electioneering since last August, obviously needs to be concluded as soon as possible.

But the Chief Election Commissioner has already started the process of bringing the electoral registers up to date and he is not willing, apparently, to go back on this process to oblige the Government. It is unlikely to be completed before late April.

Referring to the Supreme Court verdict which Janata subsequently obtained, and which Mrs Gandhi's aides are now using, the newspaper notes that two of the judges made observations endorsing the concept of recall which they may now be regretting.

Campaign to ban atom links with S Africa

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A new campaign to ban all collaboration with South Africa in the field of nuclear power is being launched today with the publication of a pamphlet entitled *South Africa's Nuclear Capability*.

The document catalogues Pretoria's resources in the atomic energy field including uranium mines, research reactors, uranium enrichment plant and plans for a nuclear power station at Koersberg, near Cape Town.

Mr Abdul S. Minty, director of the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, says that though the proposed collaboration will be aimed at the South African nuclear capacity is far advanced, it is still at the initial stage of its atomic weapons programme.

The three, who include Delhi's new lieutenant-governor, are actually conspiring in the illegal demolition of shanty and houses. Mr K. P. Verma, the chief metropolitan magistrate, earlier this month overruled a plea by Mr Gandhi's lawyers that the charges be dropped because they were filed more than three years after the incident.

But lawyers today asked that the prosecution plea for condoning the delay in filing the charges be dismissed as it was based on "vague allegations".

Sanjay Gandhi challenges court order

Delhi, Feb 19.—Delhi High Court today admitted petitions by Mr Sanjay Gandhi, younger son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and two others challenging orders that they be put on trial for alleged offences during his mother's emergency rule.

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Commenting on reports that 20 F5E fighter-bombers, large numbers of 105mm howitzers, anti-tank missiles, machine guns, rifles, ammunition and communications equipment.

Stranded refugees: A group of 24 Vietnamese refugees, still stranded on board a Bermudan registered supertanker which arrived in Singapore 10 days ago, are waiting for a country to offer them resettlement. United Nations refugee officials said in Singapore.

The report advocates the establishment of a global energy research centre under United Nations auspices, to concentrate on renewable sources of energy. It believes there should be contingency plans to protect the most vulnerable developing countries in the event of acute scarcity.

It proposes an emergency programme to get agreement on more secure supplies, more rigorous conservation, more predictable price-changes and more effective steps to develop alternative sources.

The number of American

more than £200m worth of weapons already delivered are the first 15 of 150 heavy tanks on order.

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Singapore does not allow any vessel to unload Vietnamese "boat people" without a guarantee that they will be resettled in a third country within three months. The guarantee is usually given by the country where the ship is registered.

A British Embassy official said that the local authorities in Bermuda—a British-dependent territory—had been asked to consider the matter.

The Port Hawkesbury belongs to the Bermudan subsidiary of the Canadian company Canadian-Pacific (Bermuda) Limited.

Last year, Thailand purchased

because nothing's going to change it. It's not by accident that the Costa Smeralda has become what many consider to be the finest resort on the Mediterranean. For much care and effort has gone into its creation and, as a result, today the sea is still clear and clean, the many beaches are white and unspoilt. The design and siting of the varied man-made facilities not only preserve but enhance the natural beauty of the area.

An excellent investment in a protected environment. The Costa Smeralda is protected by the Consorzio Costa Smeralda, the official body of property owners responsible for overseeing the preservation of this beautiful region, and the supervision of such important services as the Environmental Protection Service, the Security Service and the Medical Centre.

An attractive variety of opportunities. There's a wonderful choice of apartments in various unique locations. For example in the heart of Porto

SPORT

Football

Sunderland shows sunshine touch against sad Bolton

By Martin Tyler

Arsenal 3 Bolton W 0. Two goals by Alan Sunderland put Arsenal through last night to another FA Cup quarter-final. In the last few minutes with Arsenal overwhelming a Bolton Wanderers side reduced to 10 men, Stapleton headed a third after a scramble in the penalty area.

Arsenal took into the tie a remarkable record of resilience; only one defeat in their last 21 FA Cup matches. Bolton, whose season has been all about defeat, could not point to a single away victory on a first division ground for more than 10 months; not had they reached the semi-final round of the FA Cup in the past 20 seasons. The apparent inequality was emphasized in the second minute. Arsenal's first attack produced a corner which Price curved in from the left. Young's aerial presence helped the ball on and Sunderland stooped to connect with a simple header from six yards.

At times this season the Cup holders have given frustrating displays in which their organization, which is formidable when shadowed by the individual skill of their attack, is considerable. But relaxed by the rest Arsenal showed a sunshine touch. Brady, springing forward into the advanced positions where he is more effective, was elated by the end of a move of superb first-time passing involving Young, Rix and Stapleton. Stapleton then twice fired wide when swerved first by Rice, then by Rix. Young, after a second's hesitation, with a slumping 20-yard drive that needed two attempts from McDonald before he made sure of his save.

Gowling, these days reduced from his striking role to a leader in the centre of Bolton's hapless defence, presented Stapleton with another opportunity but the tame finish emphasized the only disappointing feature of Arsenal's work in the opening half-hour. However after a welcome gift that could not be squandered, Sunderland hardly

need a map and a compass to plot the course of an appallingly judged back pass and he casually rolled in his second goal.

Bolton's best moments at Dean Park had come from reflexes but not from the team unable to mount any attack of substance in a totally one-sided first half. Sadly, too, they mustered none of the spirit that had stood their cause in such good stead on Saturday. Only more casual work in front of goal by Sunderland and Stapleton, both splendidly served by the intercepting Brady, stopped Bolton from being further beaten in the first 45 minutes.

Bolton were further hampered when Alladice, who had needed treatment, was unable to resume after the interval. The centre of the defence was further softened two minutes into the second half as McDonald's determination and lightning reflexes to follow Brady's free kick rendered Gowling unconscious. After protracted attention behind the goal Gowling's departure on a stretcher only added to Bolton's sad night.

With his side now down to 10 men McDonald had to plumb his right to make his best save from an Arsenal move that had its origins in Dublin. O'Leary to Brady and at the end of the cross a characteristically twisting header from Stapleton.

In their adversity Bolton responded with greater character and twice the 19-year-old Carter caught Arsenal's defenders with their concentration lost, but his confidence and the sheer quality of his initiative were never deserved. It was only a temporary respite and McDonald was called upon for heroics to force Sunderland and Rice into errors in front of goal when they should have added to Arsenal's lead.

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Cormack takes over from Best at Hibernian

Peter Cormack has left Bristol City and rejoined the Scottish Premier Division club, Hibernian, on a free transfer. Hibs signed him last night as a replacement for George Best, whose £2,000-a-match contract was cancelled at the end of last season.

Cormack made 182 appearances for Hibs before moving south to join Nottingham Forest. He scored 13 goals in 74 games there before moving on to Liverpool and finally Bristol City. He was the 33-year-old midfield player's last appearance in the first division, was against Norwich City in December.

Chatham Town, a Kent league club, are hoping to sign George Best. A club spokesman said yesterday: "We are very interested in trying to negotiate with him to join us for the rest of the season and play in all our home matches".

A full strain to Blackburn Rovers' longest serving player, Derek Fazackerley, has forced him to withdraw from the club's third division side's plans for today's FA Cup fifth round replay against Aston Villa at Villa Park.

Howard Kendall, the player-manager, will be forced to re-

shuffle his side if Fazackerley, who has been ever-present this season, fails a late fitness test on the injury. Fazackerley, 32, is out. Kendall's first team change in six games will see a forward, Paul Round, brought in, with several players changing positions.

"I'm confident that Derek will be fit and that he will not be needed," said Kendall, who expects a better performance from his side at Villa. "We picked up a few points where we went wrong on Saturday and improved on them. It's his first ever international cap. But I think our young compatriots friends should be more defensive position when we gave away the goal and we have worked on that, so hopefully it will not happen again."

Villa also hope to be unchanged, though Best and McNaught suffered knee injuries in the last game. The pair are available to treatment and should be available for what Ron Saunders, the manager, predicts to be a "full-blooded challenge" for a quarter-final tie at Wembley.

Cropley, former Villa player now with Newcastle United, has a thigh strain and may miss the important second division game against Birmingham City at St. James' Park.

Howard Kendall, the player-manager, will be forced to re-

Boxing

Gardner gets chance for vacant European title

John L. Gardner, the British Commonwealth heavyweight, will meet Belgium's Rudi Gauwe, for the vacant European title, at the Albert Hall on April 22. This will be Gardner's first attempt on the European crown. He was hoping to challenge for the WBC world champion, Larry Holmes, but his ambitions were ruined by a points defeat against Jimmy Young, of the United States, at Wembley, last year.

Gardner and Gauwe are not the leading contenders for the European title. They are rated fourth and four, respectively, behind Lorenzo Zanin and Alfonso Righetti, of Italy, but the European Boxing Union yesterday accepted Mike Barrett's offer of a £2,000 purse.

Roy Gubbins, a 21-year-old Scot, who has a 100 per cent record, will challenge Gauwe in the 15-round bout on March 12. Gubbins, who has won the Commonwealth title, will be supported by the British Boxing Council's flyweight champion, Peter Clegg, of South Korea, in a 15-round date match to be held on May 4 in Seoul, his manager, Sibchiro Kunitomo, arranged with Matthew Saad Muhammad. After that Gubbins plans to concentrate on a British title challenge.

—Agencies.

At last James Callaghan has made the headlines

Tokyo, Feb. 19.—On the face of it, James Callaghan appears an unlikely boxing champion. A college education and good looks are not usually associated with boxers, but Callaghan has made a name for himself in the amateur ranks. In his first professional bout he won a title and in his fourth, despite his name, he became middleweight champion of Japan.

Callaghan, aged 23, was born in Yokohama of a British father and Japanese mother. He began a life of boxing at the age of 16 when the family moved to Liverpool. Despite a record of 24 wins, including 12 knockouts, in 23 bouts he never made any headlines and returned to Japan where he turned professional. In November 1978 he won the

middleweight "rookie" title by knocking out Eiji Tanaka in the fifth round. Two more impressive victories took him to a title contest against the defending champion, "Dynamic" Matsuo, and he became the first Briton to take a Japanese national title when he won by a knockout in his home town on January 9.

For the time being, however, Alan Minter and the world middleweight champion, Vito Anticofersa, who meet in Las Vegas on March 16, have little to do with Callaghan's great hope. Callaghan's brother, Tetsuro Kawai, admits his fighter still has some way to go before reaching world class. "He's most fight outside Japan, unlike other Japanese boxers who only fight at home," Kawai said.

Cross-country

Treacy brothers selected

John Treacy, twice winner of the individual title, and his brother, Ray, are in the Republic of Ireland team for the world cross country championships in Paris on March 5. The brothers, from Waterford, are both students at Providence State College, Rhode Island.

John Treacy first won the title in Gowran in 1978 and retained it in Limerick last year. Another champion, Gerry Deegan, has also been selected for the team.

John Woods, who is based in

Ball to stay in our court, say Blackpool

need a map and a compass to plot the course of an appallingly judged back pass and he casually rolled in his second goal.

Bolton were further hampered when Alladice, who had needed treatment, was unable to resume after the interval. The centre of the defence was further softened two minutes into the second half as McDonald's determination and lightning reflexes to follow Brady's free kick rendered Gowling unconscious. After protracted attention behind the goal Gowling's departure on a stretcher only added to Bolton's sad night.

At the end of the game, when Alladice had to plumb his right to make his best save from an Arsenal move that had its origins in Dublin. O'Leary to Brady and at the end of the cross a characteristically twisting header from Stapleton.

In their adversity Bolton responded with greater character and twice the 19-year-old Carter caught Arsenal's defenders with their concentration lost, but his confidence and the sheer quality of his initiative were never deserved. It was only a temporary respite and McDonald was called upon for heroics to force Sunderland and Rice into errors in front of goal when they should have added to Arsenal's lead.

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SPORT

Cricket

Whistlestop tour ends with the world as Botham's train-bearer

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bombay, Feb 19

England duty won the Jubilee Test match here this afternoon by 10 wickets, thus inflicting upon India, in their home Test, their first home defeat for just over a century. A pleasant record will have to be known as Ian Botham's match. Few English cricketers can ever have dominated a game of cricket at this level.

A match less typical of cricket in India, it would be hard to imagine. That is why India lost it as they did. For every over of spin there were four and a half of seam. Usually, it is the other way around. The only honourable fall to a slow bowler was Lever on Monday morning. In India's two innings Underwood bowled five overs and Emburey none.

Although pinkish in appearance the pitch had enough grass to always be a slow wicket. When I went and looked at it after the match was over it smelt of hay that had been dried by the sun. Not otherwise could Taylor and Botham have established the records they did. When he caught the ball Lever was not even bowled, howled by Botham. Taylor claimed his tenth victim of the match, a world Test record.

Most of Taylor's ten catches were easy. This one, for which he had to dive to his right, was not. And that was Botham's best wicket, even with his moving "lonesome". Until today Gil Langley, of Australia, held the record for the number of victims in a Test match; he had nine at Lord's in 1956.

Botham's match figures were 45.5-14-106-13. Only two other bowlers have taken as many wickets in a Test match in India. J. M. Patel, an off-spin bowler, who took 14 for 124 against Australia on Sunday, has since lost his man. He too needs a break, and if Taylor and Botham are to be reprieved when they know they are not out, are they always going to walk when they know they are? Because when they should?

So ends this whistling tour, which began in early November, with no one knowing quite what to expect and has left a lot of people worried as to where cricket in Australia is going. It seems to me that the last Indian to leave the last Indian wicket fell this morning to Lever, no one was more obviously delighted than Botham. If Botham, who had bowled throughout India's innings,

did the main damage, Lever was a hardworking and unlucky henchman. In the four Test matches of India's tour, Botham took 32 wickets. England's only other wicket-taker, a pleasant record, took 31 between them. With a batting average of 50, Botham was also, in the end, England's most successful batsman. "I've only one person to thank him for him—and that is Sohers", Brearley says of his young captain.

Needing 96 to win, England could have lost Boycott at 15, but a batsman at 15 dropping a low, and awkward, catch of Ghavri. There was also a second case of an umpiring decision being retracted, though more of that in a moment. Good play very well and good play very badly.

It was timely, perhaps, after Viswanath's gesture on Sunday of recalling Taylor, that there should come so soon a reminder of the dangers of this sort of thing. Botham, I suppose, when he glanced at Kapil Dev and was given out to an appeal for a leg-side catch at the wicket. Almost before Boycott had time to look up, he had to make his choice to the umpire. His finger had gone straight up and straight down. The close fielders, knowing that Boycott had not played the ball, rather than following on the appeal with another, turned away.

Not surprisingly, the bowler, Kapil Dev, was indignant. At the end of the over he made it plain to everyone that he had not bowled even with his moving "lonesome". Until today Gil Langley, of Australia, held the record for the number of victims in a Test match; he had nine at Lord's in 1956.

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bowled throughout India's innings, in the future will be used there



Jubilee ball: Taylor's catch in Botham's match handed the world a wicket-keeping record, first ball, yesterday.

more as pawns than as players. What Australia do to their own domestic cricket by way, for example, of debasing the Sheffield Shield is their affair; but let their opponents be warned against becoming sacrificial lambs.

The international cricket world, with the exception of New Zealand and, for the moment, South Africa, is suffering from a sort of play. In Australia there was a general feeling that it would be a good thing when the season ended. The Australian tour to Pakistan is being undertaken impulsively, and if Taylor and Botham are to be reprieved when they know they are not out, are they always going to walk when they know they are? Because when they should?

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Lloyd and Roberts may miss Test

Wellington, Feb 19.—The West Indies team left here today for Christchurch uncertain whether their Captain, Lloyd, or their most experienced batsman, Roberts, would be able to play in the second Test against New Zealand starting on Friday. Both are receiving treatment for injuries.

"We are hopeful both will be fit, but it's too early to say," the coach, Willis Rodman, said before the team departed. He added that the Test side might not be named until the day before the match.

The absence of Lloyd, who injured his shoulder in the first Test, has caused concern in Britain about Roberts, who has been troubled by a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Test match. He was hoping to join the touring team's hopes of gaining revenge for the team's wicket defeat at Dunedin, if Lloyd is unfit, the former Middlesex player, Gomes, who has been out of touch here, could be selected.

Neutral umpires: In Karachi the new chairman of Pakistan's Cricket Board of Control, Ali Marshal Nur Khan, has suggested to West Indies officials that umpires from a third country should be used during the West Indian tour later this year.

The tour will begin in the first week of March, he said, and the West Indians will play four Test matches, five three-day games and three one-day internationals. Certain financial matters remain to be settled but "the tour is definitely on," the air travel is.

Dennis Lillee tried to avoid the press on his arrival with the Australian side in Karachi yesterday by first posing as a doctor and then as a team official. When reporters did question him, he said: "I am music, not music, I am a doctor." Tote mustn't talk music, I am a doctor," he said.

Lillee, who will lead Australia's attack against Pakistan in the three-match Test series, concluded his showmanship by talking to newsmen.—Agencies.

Huddersfield finale?

Yorkshire may have played enough cricket at Huddersfield for the last time. Officials say they cannot afford to pay £4,000 for the use of the ground.

Golf

Hogan rises again from the ashes of Phoenix

By Peter Ryde

The career of Ben Hogan will now be known as "The Man Who Played for Glory", by Gene Gretzky, to thank for making me think about it afresh. I read it in Phoenix, Arizona, where their Captain, Lloyd, or their most experienced batsman, Roberts, would be able to play in the second Test against New Zealand starting on Friday. Both are receiving treatment for injuries.

"We are hopeful both will be fit, but it's too early to say," the coach, Willis Rodman, said before the team departed. He added that the Test side might not be named until the day before the match.

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Athletics

British party of five is weakest on record

Elizabeth Barnes was chosen yesterday to run for Britain in the 800 metres at the European Indoor Championships in Witten, Germany, on March 1-2. But Miss Barnes, aged 28, also inquired why so many of Britain's leading athletes had retired from indoor honours. "I am not sure and why so many of the athletes who are in Britain at the moment do not want the chance to compete at this event", she said.

After all, we will have to be in full form early in the season because of the quick build-up to the Olympics. So this sort of event must help an athlete get back in the swim.

Britain have chosen only five athletes that were line-ups in the history of the championships because virtually every member of their potential Olympic team is concentrating on preparation for Moscow.

Britain have won over 20 gold medals in these championships since they first entered in 1956 and Miss Barnes and Sandra Arthurson won runs in the 1,500 metres, have a rough task ahead in trying to emulate some of the fine performances of the past by women contenders.

Miss Barnes is one of two members of the Kent club, Canterbury, that were line-ups in the history of the championships because they first entered in 1956 and Miss Barnes and Sandra Arthurson won runs in the 1,500 metres, have a rough task ahead in trying to emulate some of the fine performances of the past by women contenders.

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PARLIAMENT, February 19, 1980

Pickets have no immunity against criminal law: people have the right to go about daily business

House of Commons

Recent events outside private steel firms had raised public anxiety about the law on picketing and intimidation. Sir Michael Havers (Conservative), said in a statement setting out the present law on picketing.

He said: "I must emphasize that the law on picketing does not in any real way threaten the criminal law and, in no way diminishes the rules which govern public order."

The criminal law of the land applies to pickets as it does to anybody else.

Let there be no illusion that the immunity provided under the civil law enables pickets to break the law.

Paceful picketing in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute is lawful so long as it is the honest belief of those involved that the action will not damage the interests of those in dispute.

This does not mean that the freedom to picket is a licence to obstruct or intimidate—the law permits picketing for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or peacefully persuading another person to work or not to work.

The immunity from civil proceedings given in Section 12 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, does not extend to any wrongful act such as violence, or threats of violence or damage to property or otherwise by excessive numbers of pickets or otherwise or molestation amounting to a civil wrong. In these circumstances it may be open to the employer on his own behalf or on that of his trade union to take action in the civil courts.

In addition the criminal law is perfectly clear. Each of us has the right to go about our daily work or pleasure free from interference by others.

Each one of us is free as an individual to come and go as we please to our home or to our place of work.

The law specifically protects our enjoyment of those rights. If anyone tries to deter us from exercising those rights by the use of violence or intimidation or obstruction then he is breaking the law and may be punished.

The right to picket does not confer on anyone any right to stop vehicles—still less do pickets have the right to stop people going about their lawful business. Pickets have no right to attack arms or otherwise prevent access to the place of work which they are meeting representatives of chief police officers at their request of hear their views on the problems they have of enforcing the law. It is not for me to comment on that.

Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Dunstable, Conservative) asked for an opinion on the recommendation of Sir David McVee (the Metropolitan Police Commissioner) on amending the Public Order Act, 1956, in which he suggests that mass picketing, as at Greenwich and elsewhere, might be ended in connection with such amendments?

Sir Michael Havers—I have discussed this with the Home Secretary who is undertaking a review of the Act. He is considering a consultative document on the complex issues involved.

Sir Paul Bryan (Bolton, C.) would like to explain the position before the Home Secretary on the question of whether by amending the law to stop people going to or delivering or collecting goods they are not protected by the law since their purpose is obstruct rather than persuade.

A large number of really responsible instances of lawful peaceful persuasion? They are more likely to lead to unlawful assembly or even an affray.

So far as excessive numbers are concerned the courts have recognised that the number of pickets may limit the number of police officers and places where they reasonably cause to fear disorder. In my view this includes in the appropriate case, not only asking some of those present to leave but also preventing others from joining the pickets.

The enforcement of the law is an important function of the police and the courts. I recognise the difficult task chief officers of the police have in deciding how order can best be maintained so as to ensure that ordinary people can exercise their own rights. It is the function of the law to protect the rights of people.

Police and employers have a right about their daily business, to work or not to work, and to make their own decisions whether to exercise those rights.

If we let go of that principle then we are abandoning the rule of law and risk surrender to the rule of violence.

I hope that by stating the main principles of the law (with which the Lord Advocate agrees) I have removed the doubt and ended all those concerns, whether pickets or others respect and uphold the law. I am sure that the great majority in this country will support this.

Mr Peter Archer, Opposition spokesman on law (Worley, West, Lab)—For the avoidance of misunderstanding of the country will the Home Secretary make clear that what he said pertains to a statement of the law and is not in any way concerned with changing it?

It is a matter for chief constables and the courts. I recognise the difficult task chief officers of the police have in ensuring that the criminal law is administered, bearing in mind as they do that emotive situations are not always improved by introducing criminal sanctions.

Would he impress on ministers that the task is not made easier by their various pronouncements from politicians? Will he confirm that there is a well-recognised tradition that ministers of the crown, including law officers and Lord Chancellor, do not ask to instruct chief constables in the way they should carry out their duties?

Sir Michael Havers—The statement is as the law is today. All of us will have great admiration for the way the police have dealt with the problems that have arisen in the last year. It is the duty of chief constables to administer the law but it is the

man on the spot who is best able to judge what action he must take.

He also that no help is given to any situation by inflammatory statements. We would like to see a little support for the upholding of the law from the benches.

(Conservative cheers.)

Mr Edward Gardner (South Fylde, C)—Does he have the least doubt that if the pickets who have been responsible for violent and alarming circumstances in the past—such facts as these—had not been members of a trade union but ordinary members of the public they would have been arrested and accused of the right of a sentence of imprisonment?

There is not only no immunity in law but there should be no immunity in practice to trade unions assembling in an affray or a riot. (Conservative cheers.)

Sir Michael Havers—The criminal law applies to all, whether they be pickets or anybody else. It must in every case be a decision of a difficult decision for the senior constable to decide the number in mind the number of people there and the pressures that are facing him to decide what action he is to take.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L.) said that the amount to be spent on criminal law on picketing is adequate to deal with the situation. If that is what the statement means what does the Government propose to do about ensuring that the law is administered?

Would the Government have particular regard in that context to those people who join picket lines who are not members of trade unions but who are there only and solely for the purpose of trouble-making? (Conservative cheers.)

Sir Michael Havers—He is right. One of the problems always is that the rent-a-mobs and those who just want to have a "beat-up" on join picketing. It may be that in some cases, as in the case when those who have been arrested in the past appear in court. My statement was made to remove some doubt that appear to exist about the criminal law.

The Home Secretary said (Mr H. Williams) will now allow me to meet representatives of chief police officers at their request of hear their views on the problems they have of enforcing the law. It is not for me to comment on that.

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A large number of really responsible instances of lawful peaceful persuasion? They are more likely to lead to unlawful assembly or even an affray.

So far as excessive numbers are concerned the courts have recognised that the number of pickets may limit the number of police officers and places where they reasonably cause to fear disorder.

In my view this includes in the appropriate case, not only asking some of those present to leave but also preventing others from joining the pickets.

The enforcement of the law is an important function of the police and the courts. I recognise the difficult task chief officers of the police have in deciding how order can best be maintained so as to ensure that ordinary people can exercise their own rights. It is the function of the law to protect the rights of people.

Police and employers have a right about their daily business, to work or not to work, and to make their own decisions whether to exercise those rights.

If we let go of that principle then we are abandoning the rule of law and risk surrender to the rule of violence.

I hope that by stating the main principles of the law (with which the Lord Advocate agrees) I have removed the doubt and ended all those concerns, whether pickets or others respect and uphold the law. I am sure that the great majority in this country will support this.

Mr Peter Archer, Opposition spokesman on law (Worley, West, Lab)—For the avoidance of misunderstanding of the country will the Home Secretary make clear that what he said pertains to a statement of the law and is not in any way concerned with changing it?

It is a matter for chief constables and the courts. I recognise the difficult task chief officers of the police have in ensuring that the criminal law is administered, bearing in mind as they do that emotive situations are not always improved by introducing criminal sanctions.

Would he impress on ministers that the task is not made easier by their various pronouncements from politicians? Will he confirm that there is a well-recognised tradition that ministers of the crown, including law officers and Lord Chancellor, do not ask to instruct chief constables in the way they should carry out their duties?

Sir Michael Havers—The statement is as the law is today. All of us will have great admiration for the way the police have dealt with the problems that have arisen in the last year. It is the duty of chief constables to administer the law but it is the

man on the spot who is best able to judge what action he must take.

He also that no help is given to any situation by inflammatory statements. We would like to see a little support for the upholding of the law from the benches.

(Conservative cheers.)

Mr Edward Gardner (South Fylde, C)—Does he have the least doubt that if the pickets who have been responsible for violent and alarming circumstances in the past—such facts as these—had not been members of a trade union but ordinary members of the public they would have been arrested and accused of the right of a sentence of imprisonment?

There is not only no immunity in law but there should be no immunity in practice to trade unions assembling in an affray or a riot. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L.) said that the amount to be spent on criminal law on picketing is adequate to deal with the situation. If that is what the statement means what does the Government propose to do about ensuring that the law is administered?

Would the Government have particular regard in that context to those people who join picket lines who are not members of trade unions but who are there only and solely for the purpose of trouble-making? (Conservative cheers.)

Sir Michael Havers—He is right. One of the problems always is that the rent-a-mobs and those who just want to have a "beat-up" on join picketing. It may be that in some cases, as in the case when those who have been arrested in the past appear in court. My statement was made to remove some doubt that appear to exist about the criminal law.

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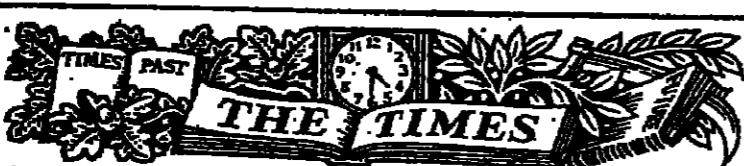
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CRIMINAL LAW—NOT ENFORCED CIVIL LAW—NOT REFORMED

Mr Prior's working paper on secondary industrial action happens to come at a time when the reform of the civil law seems less important than the enforcement of the criminal law; in fact the two are linked. What happened last Thursday at Hadfields, as the Prime Minister rightly observed, plainly went beyond the bounds of peaceful picketing and entered the realm of direct intimidation. Intimidation and conspiracy to intimidate are criminal acts. In the case of Hadfields, the intimidation achieved its objective and work at Hadfields was stopped. Similar intimidation has occurred in other places and is threatened at Sheerness.

The police reaction has been inadequate. In respect of lawful actions during industrial disputes the police quite rightly take the view that they should remain impartial. That is their job, and it is not in anybody's interest that they should lose their reputation for impartiality between management and trade unions. That does not, however, remove their responsibility to enforce the criminal law. A citizen going about his ordinary business is as much entitled to be protected from intimidation by mass pickets as he is to be protected from intimidation by any other crowd of people.

Protecting the public

What is more, the organization of mass pickets, and particularly of flying pickets clearly intended to intimidate, is itself an unlawful act. In his role as a master of mass pickets, moving or threatening to move his members to impose his will on the public in different parts of the country, Mr Scargill is well outside the law. If he, or any other trade union leader, organizers or supports action calculated to threaten other people, he lays himself open to prosecution. This is not a law about trade unions; it is a general protection of the public to which trade unions are as much subject as anyone else.

By the side of these actions, which have come so near to mass violence, and are so far removed from lawful, peaceful persuasion and reason, the reform of the civil law may seem less important. Yet it was the removal of all protection under civil law which helped to create among some trade unionists the false belief that any trade union action had a total immunity, civil, criminal or whatever. What is required is the creation of a civil law which is in reasonable balance, as well as the enforcement of the criminal law against the use of fear as a weapon. We do not want a law which would leave trade unions at the mercy of employers. That would be wrong and unjust. We do want to bring to an end the situation in which employers and the state itself are at the mercy of trade unions, because that is both unjust and immensely damaging to the national interest.

The question to be asked about the amendments Mr Prior is now

THE RETURN OF MR TRUDEAU

The Canadian electorate has registered an emphatic vote of no confidence in Mr Joe Clark and the policies of the Progressive Conservatives. It was unimpressed by his performance in office; it did not feel that his success in Iran outweighed his failures and fumbles elsewhere; it disliked his budget which, whatever might be said against it in detail, was strikingly honest in its strategy. Above all, the electorate rejected his energy policy. In a sense, what it has really voted for is petrol and oil at half world prices sustained by subsidised imports. Since Canadians use more petrol per capita than any other people, this piece of democracy need not have been unexpected—Mr Clark was naif to introduce his dose of realism while still in a vulnerable minority. Also, he fatally misread Mr Trudeau's resignation of the Liberal leadership, so readily resented when the Party wanted him back, as giving the Conservatives time to make their unpopular reforms.

Mr Trudeau, discredited nine months ago, now finds himself restored to power on exactly the terms on which he left it. He has a working majority, and he heads much the same party from which he had, over his eleven years of office, eliminated nearly all the talent which could challenge his supremacy. Moreover, the opinion polls made clear that

putting forward for discussion is whether they go far enough to redress the balance. Despite the complaints of the trade unions there is really no question at all that they go too far. Compared with the immense changes made in favour of trade unions by Mr Michael Foot they represent only a very small re-dressing of the balance.

Much of what Mr Prior proposes goes no further than setting right matters which the House of Lords has very recently set wrong. Indeed, his first two qualifications for immunity both correct those parts of House of Lords' judgments which could properly be described as having made new law and bad new law at that. He will restore the law to an objective test rather than a subjective test of whether a strike is in furtherance of a trade dispute. His proposal is that it should be required to be "reasonably capable of furthering the dispute". The House of Lords were under no obligation to adopt the purely subjective test and Lord Wilberforce rightly protested at their doing so. There Lord Diplock and the majority were making new law as freely as Lord Denning has ever done, with this difference that they made their new law against equity and against liberty.

Mr Prior is also making the immunities dependent on the action being taken predominantly in pursuit of the trade dispute concerned and not principally for some "extraneous motive". This again merely restores the position, which had previously been held to be the case, that a political strike does not enjoy immunity: the immunities were granted for the purpose of trade disputes and not for the purpose of political disputes. The House of Lords had left this part of the law unclear, after dismissing Lord Denning's doctrine of the two disputes in the steel case—one a trade dispute, the other political.

The question of immunity

One half of Mr Prior's proposals deal only with matters which arose for the first time in the House of Lords. These are not even matters on which the House of Lords overruled a novel judgment of Lord Denning, as was the case in the doctrine of remoteness. The House of Lords was setting aside the general trend of past judicial interpretation, including their own. It is desirable that the House of Lords should be put right but it makes no great difference to the balance of trade union power. So far as these amendments are concerned Mr Prior's proposals leave us no better and no worse off than we appeared to be when the government came to office.

The other major proposal is to limit the immunity of inducing breaches in commercial contracts to the main dispute or contracts involving what are called first suppliers or customers. This limitation of immunity will apply only to breaches of commercial contracts. Inducements to break contracts of employment will

continue to enjoy their full immunity, provided only that they are in furtherance of a trade dispute. They can go as wide or as far as the unions have reason to consider advantageous.

In terms of the balance of power this again must be regarded as a relatively minor matter. In the first place the limitation only applies if the dispute is taken beyond the point of first suppliers or customers. Mr Prior is therefore talking about primary and secondary disputes being covered by immunity, and only tertiary disputes having their immunity reduced. Secondly, the reduction in immunity only affects commercial breaches. Until 1972 the immunities under the trades Dispute Act of 1906 were confined to contracts of employment and it was only in 1972 that the scope of the immunity was extended to include breaches of all contracts.

Creating a fair balance

We have therefore a proposal by Mr Prior to leave the trade unions with wider immunities than they had in the period of 1906-1972 in respect of commercial contracts, and with immunities as wide as they ever had (until the most recent House of Lords judgments appeared to extend them) in respect of employment contracts. These provisions would have made no difference to the situation in the steel industry, though the picketing provisions already proposed in Mr Prior's bill might have been helpful. It is not surprising that the independent steel companies describe them as "utterly useless".

The failure is broad and deep. Since the Donovan Commission was set up by Mr Harold Wilson in 1965 "to consider relations between management and employees and the role of trade unions and employees' associations in promoting the interests of other members and in accelerating the social and economic advance of the nation, with particular reference to the law affecting the activities of these bodies", it has been notorious that Britain needed an equitable trade union law; that would be one that would secure a fair balance in the bargaining between employer and trade unions, and would provide an orderly and democratic structure for the protection of members of trade unions.

The Conservative Party failed in opposition after 1974 to devise any coherent system of reform. Mr Prior's original proposals for legislation did not constitute such a system of reform and his bill will hardly be brought any nearer to it by the latest amendments. No doubt his proposals should be as far as they go because they undo some serious—and gratuitous—damage that was done in the House of Lords, but that was very recent damage and the amendments fail to address themselves to the central issue of the balance of power. Bad laws have given great power to bad trade union practices; minor changes will not help to protect Britain from them.

become the balancing party. Even nine short months out of power can teach a politician useful lessons. But the key issue, the issue which destiny seems to have reserved for Mr Trudeau to resolve, is the unity of Canada, the coming confrontation with the secessionist forces in Quebec. At the end of the campaign, scintillating victory, the old Mr Trudeau spoke out for a strong federal government and for one Canada as a blend of two cultures.

Mr Levesque, perhaps ominously, welcomed the renewal of his struggle with federalist Mr Trudeau. He has his worries. The referendum in which he will ask Quebec voters to agree to negotiations for the so-called sovereignty-association is a few months off. But the resurgence of the provincial Liberal Party under Mr Claude Ryan has made a difference. Mr Ryan's own scheme for a new relationship between Quebec and Canada, which carefully retains federal unity, is evidently liked by Quebecers, who are enjoying a new sense of self-confidence as both French and Canadians.

This is the upshot of many factors. But it is one on which Mr Trudeau and Mr Ryan could build constructively—if they worked well together and with the other provinces, especially the west. It is the hub of the problem: for Mr Trudeau's will be the decisive role.

by Anthony Steen (February 13). Local government officers are in general less well paid than their private sector counterparts, less well accommodated, and devoid so far as I am aware of the mysterious privileges at which Mr Steen hints.

Perhaps naively, I do my job because I believe it makes a contribution to the good of society.

Mr Steen's suggestion of private

sector involvement in our task is worthy of full consideration; to hang it on tired old jibes about a nonexistent "vast edifice of public bureaucracy" does his thesis no service at all.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA ARROWSMITH,
16 Niagara Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.
February 13.

Value for our rates
From Miss Amanda Arrowsmith
Sir, I have been a local government officer for eight years, two rounds of public expenditure cuts and three local authorities.

The commitment of almost every one of my colleagues past and present, to serving the public (if not the politicians) does not merit the fashionable abuse given to us

Setting an example of violence

From the Chief Constable of Manchester

Sir, Is it any wonder there is violence on the streets and on pitch lines? Is it any wonder that people resort to gratuitous sadistic violence when they see it practised deliberately in the name of sport?

What happened on more than one occasion in a very recent Rugby International (report, February 18) was positively disgraceful. Judged by the television recording of that match some players must now be surprised they are not facing charges of criminal assault.

It is high time the powers in the game clamped down and sorted out the trouble makers. Responsibility for this cannot be avoided by calling Rugby "a man's game". That was a view once taken of war.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ANDERSON,
Chief Constable,
Chief Constable's Office,
PO Box 22 (S. West P.D.O.),
Chester House,
Boyer Street,
Manchester.
February 18.

Interpretation problems

From Mr Geoffrey Sampson

Sir, The remark of the French Minister for Agriculture, that France is "in favour of a common agricultural policy, not of free trade area" (reported in *The Times* of February 15), makes it clearer than ever before that British problems with the EEC represent differences of opinion about the fundamental purpose of the Commission.

The Treaty of Rome created the EEC precisely to be a free trade area; Articles 38-46 of the Treaty permitted agricultural price-support strictly as a transitional device to cushion the social problems of rationalizing inefficient French and German agriculture. More than 20 years later the "transitional period" shows no sign of ending and France wants to extend the CAP further.

Perhaps the French never took the ideals of the Treaty very seriously, and, since they were founder members and we are new boys, perhaps we must accept that their version of the EEC will prevail. But then it is surely absurd for us to continue in membership of an institution which believes in free trade for industry, where we are weak, but in mercantilism for one of the few areas where we are thoroughly competitive?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY SAMPSON,
Richmond House,
Ingleton,
Yorkshire.
February 17.

A word for the Vikings

From Professor W. S. Allen, FBA

Sir, On the question of the Viking zone, both Mr Frenchman and your correspondent of February 16 have some rights on their side. As well as the Old Norse "viking" "viking" there is also the word "reykjavik" "raiding expedition" (perhaps connected with the Latin *vincere* "conquer"); and the former is more likely to have been originally derived from the latter than vice versa.

However, popular etymology may well from early times have suggested a connection with "vay" "vay" and in Reykjavik ("bay of fumaroles") a speaker today may address his audience as "Reykjavikar og Reykjavikins" ("Reykjavikins male and female"), with no implication of a cod-war or similar activities.

Yours faithfully,
W. S. ALLEN,
Trinity College,
Cambridge.
February 16.

From Dr Peter Hunter Blair

Sir, Let us by all means recognize the great achievements of these Viking traders who were not raiders, but should it not also be said that not one of those who brought their wares to Lindisfarne, Jarrow, Wearmouth, Whitby, Iona and many another centre of monastic learning would have been able to read any of the books in the monastic libraries?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HUNTER BLAIR,
Emmanuel College,
Cambridge.
February 15.

Support for the family

From Mr Tom Litterick

Sir, Miss M. T. Evans is mistaken when she refers to "... the large net increase in Exchequer support for the family ... as a result of the introduction of child benefit" (February 13).

In fact the value of child benefit was only marginally greater than the combined values of the Child Tax Allowances and Family Allowances which were phased out as child benefit was introduced, for families with more than one child. This value has since been significantly eroded and is now lower than it was in 1974. The only remaining net beneficiaries of the introduction of child benefit are families with one child.

Sincerely,
TOM LITTERICK,
Management Centre,
University of Aston,
Gosta Green,
Birmingham.
February 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plans for the welfare of the world

From Dame Judith Hart, MP for Lanark (Labour)

Sir, May I congratulate you on your sense of priorities in giving such full coverage and such perceptive leader comment to the Report of the Brundt Commission (February 13)?

Its theme of the munificence of interplay between North and South is not new as you know. But it is which has been steadily gathering support during the last five years.

Its endorsement and the proposals demand that responsible leaders in the North pause for a reflection which must transcend party politics.

I had at one point thought that the timing of the Commission's report would be unfortunate, coinciding as it does with the economic and political mood of inquiry

which flows from world depression, international crisis, and post-war pre-election problems in the United States, Germany and Britain.

But I believe that it is perfectly timed, as a clear challenge to all governments in the North to think again about the global problems facing us, and to define with greater intelligence and wisdom their own enlightened self-interest in their relationships with the South.

What worries me, however, is the process within Whitehall which will be involved in what will no doubt be called "The Response to the Brundt Report". A Foreign and Commonwealth Office view (which, alas, no longer a distinctively separate Overseas Development input); a Treasury view; a Trade view; an interdepartmental official committee; perhaps a Central Policy Review Study "team". On the detail of the Commission's proposals there will be a need for detailed work but we need above all a positive and early response to the general theme of the report.

It will demand political judgment and initiative. I hope that when we have the debate in the House of Commons for which we have called, there will be that positive response. Anything other would be an abdication of responsibility for British participation in finding global solutions to a global crisis in which our own economy and our own society is at risk.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH HART,
House of Commons.
February 18.

Deaths in police custody

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)

Sir, Professor Smythe (February 14) makes the obvious point that in comparing deaths in police custody with numbers of complaints against the police alleging assault, one needs to standardise the data according to the number of arrests.

Of course, and that is why I had already sought this information in a written Parliamentary Question to the Home Office on January 31. The point I was making is that whilst there are naturally more complaints and more deaths in custody in urban areas, there are disproportionately more of both, to a significant degree, when the figures are adjusted according to a standardised number of arrests for each police area.

Thus whilst there were over the 27 deaths in custody nationally (excluding the Metropolitan area) per 10,000 arrests in 1978, on Merseyside it was 4.5, in West Yorkshire 5.2, in North Wales 6.8, in the Metropolitan area 8.3, and in the City of London 10.5.

Similarly, whilst there were 34 complaints nationally in 1978 per 10,000 arrests that year, there were 38 on Merseyside, 42 in the Metropolitan area, 51 in West Yorkshire, 52 in North Wales, and 72 in the City of London.

For Professor Smythe's point that these are "unsubstantiated" complaints, his obvious desire to whitewash the police should not blind him to the fact that the DPP's prosecution rate against the police of 1 per cent and the Police Complaints Board's failure to recommend disciplinary charges in over 90% of the 2,230 complaints of assault referred to them in 1978 may say a great deal more about the present hopelessly futile complaints system than about the substance of the complaints themselves.

Dr Skidmore (February 15) challenges my, and the Police Federation's, support for detoxification centres on the grounds that

Religious light

From Dr J. Croney

Sir, The Vicar of St Andrew's, Denley (Law Report, published February 12) may be nearer to God than his contemporary Chancellor in sensing the Holy Spirit's innumerable blessings on the people of Lancashire. Let me add that before he evolved and made his first crude candles, the Holy Spirit, which is the only God to some of us, was manifesting its awesome presence in the flickering light of lightning and the Aurora.

I have stood amazed at the antics of these consistory courts and Chancells since some 25 years ago, when an enterprising vicar installed an electric peal of bells in his silenced steeples without obtaining a licence, and was obliged to recant and remove them. However, as Galileo remarked, "Eppur si muove" (though not of the Church on that occasion) and 25 years on,

London's third airport

From Mr Charles Harmon

Sir, The idea raised by Mr Michael Brophy (February 13) that London's Third Airport should become the first Euro-airport is certainly a very good one, even if the location proposed by Mr Brophy is perhaps verging on the ridiculous.

With today's united Europe the Low Countries would provide a much better location than Stansted: Amsterdam would be a particularly good location, since it already claims the position of London's

دکان الدین

Sour notes for Mr Levin

From Sir Denis Forman

Sir, Bernard Levin's inability (February 13) to understand the plainest programme note (except the sort of musical race-reading he quotes from Ross Newmark) cannot, of course, be put down to any inability to cope with the English language. It derives rather from his profound ignorance of musical form. Many of my friends whose pleasure in music is largely emotional share Mr Levin's deficiency, but they don't talk about it so much.

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Social Focus

Why London's education authority should go

When the Greater London Council was set up under the London Government Act of 1963, it was decided, in effect, to retain a single authority for education over the area of the old London County Council. This was done by forming a new single service authority, the Inner London Education Authority, which as a legal entity is a special committee of the Greater London Council, but which functions in practice as a completely autonomous body.

Even at the time, the dangers inherent in the vast size and unusual constitutional position of the new authority were recognized. For this reason the 1963 Act contained a provision for a review on the Inner London Education service to be laid before Parliament by March 31, 1970. But one of the first acts of the Wilson administration which was elected in 1966 was to repeal this provision and so no review took place.

There are educational, constitutional and financial reasons why such a review should have taken place.

Educational achievement is notoriously difficult to quantify, but attainment in public examinations must remain one of the principal yardsticks by which the success or failure of an education authority is judged. The ILEA has always been most reluctant to publish its exam results, but there is still sufficient evidence to show that the pass rates in inner London is significantly lower than the average for England or Wales as a whole.

TABLE I

	ILEA	England and Wales
Subjects taken at "O" level/1,000 children at secondary schools	387	603
Subjects passed at "O" level/1,000 children	197	357
Subjects taken at "A" level/1,000 children	95	116
Subjects passed at "A" level/1,000 children	57	78

Yet the past 10 years have seen the wanton destruction of many fine grammar schools which existed in inner London to ensure that academic excellence was available to all, rich and poor alike, who had the ability to benefit from it.

Constitutionally the ILEA is in a position that is unique within local government. The authority has a total membership of 48, comprising the 35 members of the Greater London Council who sit for inner London constituencies together with a member of the council of each of the 12 inner London boroughs and a representative of the common council of the City of London.

Elections to both the Greater London Council and the boroughs are held every four years, but not in the same year; the

borough elections being held a year later than that for the GLC. (The City has a completely different system for electing the common council, just to confuse the issue.) At neither the GLC nor the borough elections does education figure prominently as an issue, if at all. Indeed, the part GLC, part borough membership of the ILEA and the different elections make it virtually impossible for the electorate of inner London to show its preferences on educational policy.

To realize just how lacking in normal democratic accountability this system is, one only has to put the question: "Can you imagine any education authority being set up *de novo* with a constitution such as that of the ILEA?"

There is also a financial case to be answered. At present the ILEA decides how much it is going to spend, and the GLC must then pre-empt on the boroughs for the necessary money. Neither the GLC nor the boroughs can effectively challenge the expenditure. Added to this, the ILEA is not in direct competition with other spending committees for available resources. Every other education committee in the country is a committee of a multi-purpose local authority, which has to tailor its spending on education to take account of what it must spend on all the other services it provides. Not so the ILEA, which is not subject to the financial discipline of having to share resources with other services. As a result education in London has become absurdly expensive compared to elsewhere in the country.

TABLE II

LEA	No. of pupils	Unit cost
St Helens	40,428	395
Birmingham	207,171	421
Kingston	21,171	441
Tyneside	37,923	438
Barking	28,576	473
ILEA	373,870	632

The ILEA can be seen to have no direct electoral accountability, and despite spending £600 per pupil, than anywhere else in the country to have a poor record of educational attainments. A review of education in inner London should have been conducted long ago. What is now needed is reform.

Several alternatives to the ILEA are currently being canvassed, but the solution which offers the best possibility of making education democratically and financially accountable to the electors is to vest responsibility for its provision in each of the inner London boroughs.

It should be remembered that each of the outer London boroughs became an education authority in its own right only

as recently as 1965. Before that education in what is now outer London was the responsibility of the appropriate county council. Yet these London boroughs are managing very successfully, and few people in, say, Kingston, would want education returned to Surrey County Council.

It is sometimes argued that a number of the inner London boroughs are too small and too poor to take on the responsibility for their own education. The information on pupil numbers contained in Table II shows that education authorities do not have to be large. Indeed, the smaller the authority, the less likelihood of it being felt to be remote and inaccessible.

As to poverty, it is of interest to see that even the poorer inner London boroughs have relatively high rate bases.

Table III shows the product of a £1 rate in 1979-80 for a selection from the education authorities which have lower rate product than the poorer London boroughs. Tower Hamlets, frequently cited as one of the poorest of London boroughs has a

TABLE III

	Haringey	Bexley	Barking	Kingston	Sunderland	Rochdale
	£390,000	£290,000	£280,000	£270,000	£240,000	£190,000

At the moment the richer boroughs such as Westminster provide proportionately more of the finance for the ILEA, but some form of rate equalization would, of course, be necessary. But this is already done, for each borough services by way of the rate support grant, and any proposed changes in local government finance could easily be adapted to allow for the extra expenditure that educational responsibilities would put on the poorer boroughs.

Surely the onus is on those who argue for the retention of the ILEA to produce incontrovertible evidence that the problems in inner London are so significantly different from those of other education authorities, such as Birmingham and Manchester, which contain large areas of urban stress, that these unique statutory arrangements had to be made. They must also show that the arrangements are effective in educational, democratic and financial terms. There is little to suggest that this is so. Certainly not enough to retain an expensive, inefficient, constitutional oddity such as the Inner London Education Authority.

Professor David Smith
The author is a member of the Greater London Council for Norwood and Leader of the Opposition, Inner London Education Authority.

The embarrassing problem of saving the image

A scientific attempt is being made to fillet embarrassment from the body of emotions which illuminate or cloud everyday life to study its action in human distress and social control. And having described it to the satisfaction of his fellow psychologists, Mr Robert Edelmann intends to develop an effective method for people to cope with embarrassment.

What drew him to address this particular emotion in his miniature social psychology laboratory at Birkbeck College, London was the lack of research on the part played by embarrassment in the breakdown of interaction between people. That and the fact that it is a respectable and interesting route to a doctorate.

Embarrassment is a heavily distressing emotion because it vandalizes the pictures of ourselves that we carry around in our heads and project to the world for approval. The self-image is something for which we will go to considerable lengths to defend.

This defensiveness is a constant effort because each social situation carries a different set of rules, according to Mr Edelmann.

Tolstoy, for instance, was a masterly observer of the successful defence of self-image; in *Anna Karenina* his characters are frequently blushing or retreating in confusion while Kitty and Levin, in their drawing room confrontation, were so rapt about possible loss of face that they declared their love for each other by clutching initials on a table top.

More recently the importance of social rules in specific settings was vividly demonstrated by Martin Weinberg, an American research worker, who carried out a study in a nudist colony. He was told by a female nudist: "I took all my clothes off but my bra, I forgot to take it off . . . everyone laughed . . . I thought 'I'd just die.'

Given the wide variety of embarrassing social situations, Mr Edelmann's task was to narrow down his investigation to scientifically manageable proportions amenable to laboratory experiment. He chose the two-person encounter because it is easier to manipulate and record on video tape—essential to him since he wanted to concentrate on the non-verbal cues (body

language) which accompany embarrassment.

The ethical problems were formidable because the experiment involved making people embarrassed and possibly distressed.

The compromise was that he was allowed to make his subjects mildly embarrassed: there were to be no claw marks on the ceiling or mental scars.

With the ingenuity which now characterizes psychological experiments, probably more than any other discipline, Mr Edelmann, aged 28, designed a miniature art exhibition.

His volunteer subjects (17 women and 8 men), all mature students at Birkbeck, were individually shown a set of paintings and asked to comment on them. What this little group of art critics did not know was that the man asking for their comments was a genuine painter who had produced the pictures they were to criticize.

Also, they were unaware that the experiment concerned embarrassment; they were led to believe they were taking part in a study "designed to learn more about the value of face-to-face interaction as a method of obtaining information about other people's opinions"—sufficiently opaque to make people believe they were helping science.

The artist, who was trained to carry out the interviews after the viewing, looked un-

waveringly at each subject as he chattered about the paintings. At a critical point in the conversation, when the subjects were looking at his masterpieces with comments like "they're technically awful" and "I wouldn't have them hanging on my walls," the artist said: "Would it interest you to know that the picture was, in fact, painted by me?"

The non-verbal results of this attack on the self-image were recorded by two video cameras, known about but forgotten by the subjects at this stage. One monitored the face, the other captured the body.

Afterwards, the recordings were shown to the critics who were asked to identify which emotion they felt when the artist made his disclosure. The word embarrassment was buried in a list of 19 emotions. The data were fed into a computer and the results were statistically highly significant. In other words, predictions of body movement, broken eye-contact and fractured speech patterns were valid for most of the subjects (70 per cent).

Fifteen reported embarrassment, seven did not. The 15 showed a lot more body movement (twisting and turning in their seats, clasping hands and so on), much less eye contact with the artist and "speech disturbance".

The unembarrassed displayed none of these non-verbal signs

of embarrassment but instead, they increased eye contact.

In the *British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology* (18, 385-390) Mr. Edelmann speculates that they might truly have been able to ride out the revelation but alternatively they might have been trying to dominate the situation or bury embarrassment by glancing.

Interestingly, when the subjects, whose average age was 31, were told the true objective of the experiment, they all reported being interested and glad to have taken part.

Other experiments conducted by Mr Edelmann in the small, curtained room on the fourth floor have included people's reactions to intimate questions ranging from "what is your favourite television show?" (low intensity) and "what are you most ashamed of in your past life?" (medium) to "what are your most private thoughts and fantasies?" (high).

Here again, body movement, eye contact and speech all changed in relation to the degree of intimacy involved.

"Embarrassment can never be really hidden with all these non-verbal cues being given off, even though feeling embarrassed," Mr. Edelmann said.

"Also, I feel it is a highly infectious emotion. When one person becomes embarrassed in a social situation the feeling spreads to the others and the encounter breaks up."

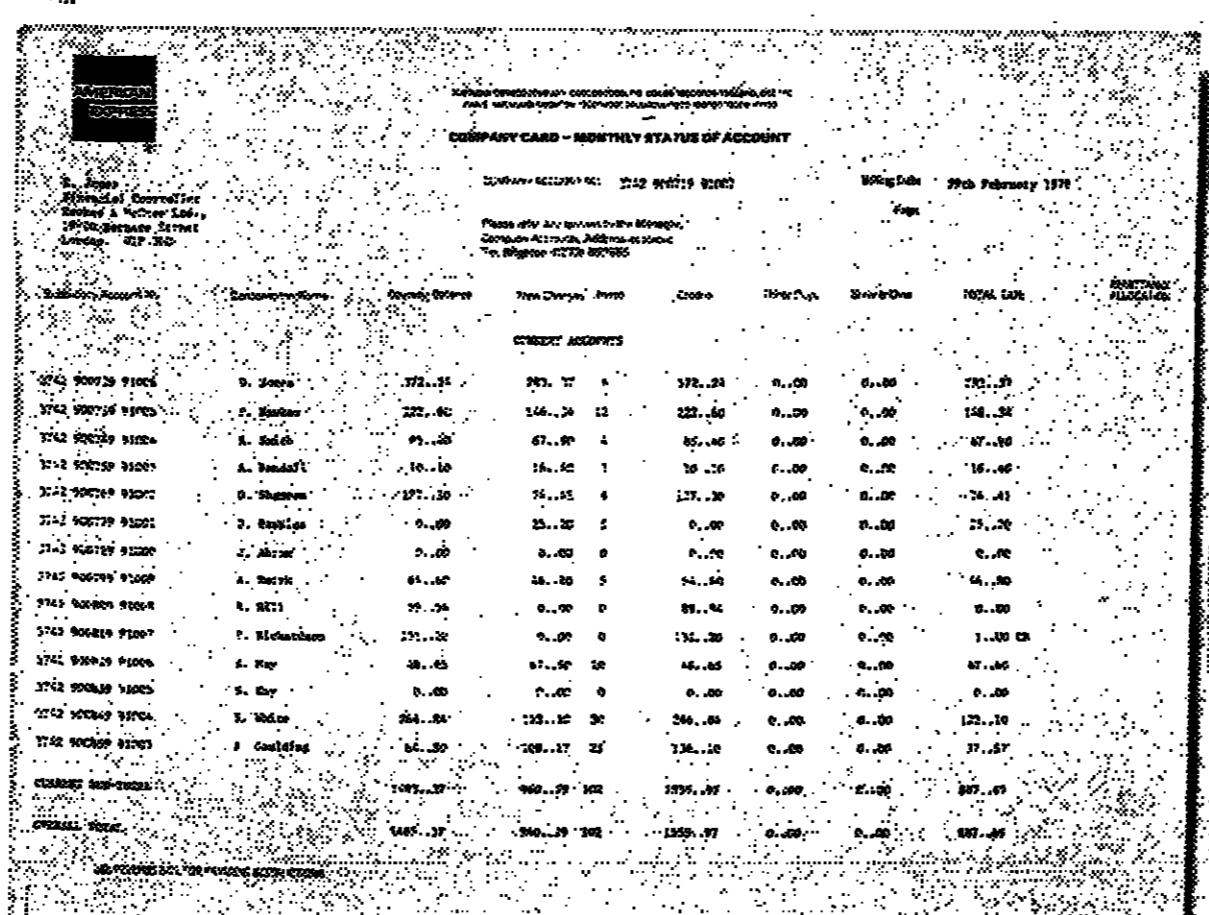
Embarrassment, as I see it, is the inadvertent stepping outside of a socially approved set of norms. When it happens you feel socially incompetent. So, fear of being embarrassed can be seen as a form of social control. People try hard to avoid this extremely unpleasant experience and maintain the rules.

"I want to find the best way of coping with the emotion so that personal interaction can go smoothly. At the moment, I think an attempt to play down the embarrassment in some way and turn it into a joke and a laugh is the best bet."

Which, in fact, is the outline of the next stage of his research. Perhaps a "laptop suffering artist" might be able to provide a few ideas.

Peter Brock

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

February 19: The Queen held an audience at Buckingham Palace this morning.

H.E. Sir Eustace the Honourable Naval Chaplain (President of the Republic of Kenya) had an audience of Her Majesty this afternoon.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP, Prime Minister, and the First Lord of the Treasury, had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of this morning attended a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the Institute of Marketing, was present at a luncheon at the Colgate-Davidson Apartments, the Carlton Tower Hotel, London, Wing Commander Anthony Nicholson was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales attended by the Hon. Edward Ades, visited HM Treasury, Parliament Street, S.W.1, today.

Today is the 35th Anniversary of the Birthday of The Prince Andrew.

Birthdays today

The Most Rev George Appleton, 78; Mr Stafford Bourne, 80; Mr Peter Ford, 68; Sir Owain Jenkins, 73; Rear-Admiral Sir Rowland Jerram, 90; Commander Sir Marion Jones, 79; Sir Peter Mardon, 82; Professor Sir William Mansfield Cooper, 77; Sir Frederick Page, 63; Mr Sidney Poitier, 53; Dame Marie Ramber, 52; Air Marshal Sir Anthony Salway, 71.

Dartmouth passing-out

The following officers under training have passed out from Britannia Royal Naval College.

College: General List: Mr. J. T. Barnes, C. G. Gibbs, T. C. Daniels, C. G. M. R. Dwyer. Sub-lieutenants: J. Fowler, Acting Sub-lieutenant: J. Gibson, D. L. Leaper, M. A. Pendle, M. R. Stugan, B. C. White, R. C. Edge, M. J. Morley, R. B. Baker. Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. St V. Llewellyn and Miss M. T. Hubbard. The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Sir Harry Llewellyn, Bt, and the Hon Lady Llewellyn, of Llanfair Grange, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, and Vanessa, youngest daughter of Lieutenant Commander Peregrine and Lady Miriam Hubbard, of Morton Hall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Mr P. W. Bonney and Miss J. M. Ireland-Blackburne. The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Bonney, of Prescot, Lancashire, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Ireland-Blackburne, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr C. P. Close and Miss E. L. Pearson. The engagement is announced between Colin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C. P. Close, of S. Chester, Mon., SW1, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs B. W. E. Pearson, of 59 Eastern Road, Birmingham, B29.

Mr H. M. Gordon-Martin and Miss T. M. Cornock-Taylor. The engagement is announced between Anthony, eldest son of Brigadier and Mrs D. M. Stileman, of Wimborne, Dorset, and Sarah Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Forbes Watson, of Abbotbury Road, Holland Park, London.

Mr T. B. Langton and Mrs E. A. Clarke. The engagement is announced between Thomas Bennett Langton and Rosamonde Ann Clarke (neé Savill).

Mr E. H. Thomas and Dr M. J. Ashton. The engagement is announced between Derek, elder son of Mr and Mrs W. McMinn, of Dunston, Tyne and Wear, and Jane, daughter of Professor and Mrs F. Ashton, of Hanbury, Worcester.

Mr Robin McDouall, hopes to thank personally those friends who sent books, flowers, wine and cards while he was in hospital.

25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday, Feb 19, 1955.

Lieutenant-Commander G. G. Marren has accepted under protest the offer of arbitration to submit the Crown Lands to all 725 acres at Cheltenham Down, Dorset, to him, but is urging arbitration on the price with a view to a reduction of the figure of £15,000. Commandant Roger Quig, Mr John Roth, Mr Warren, who read the lesson, and Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Nicholls, chairman of the former colleagues from the United Africa Company and Unilever.

Mr E. H. Thomas

A thanksgiving service for the life of Edward, King of St. Rohof without Bishopsgate. The Rev A. J. Tanner officiated. Mr Roger Quig, Mr John Roth, Mr Warren, who read the lesson, and Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Nicholls, chairman of the former colleagues from the United Africa Company and Unilever.

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Today's engagements

The Queen opens the "Hope Town" Salvation Army Hostel, Whitechapel, 3.

The Duke of Edinburgh chairs the Royal Yachting Association Design Centre, Haymarket, 11, as President, attends council meeting of the Royal Yachting Association Little Ship Club, Upper Thames Street, 4, presents the first Country Life and Farming Award, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, 6; attends Springtime in aid of the Sunshine Fund for Crippled and Young People, Players' Theatre, Villiers Street, 8.30.

The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board visits British Rail Headquarters, 11, Chester Barrie Ltd, Crewe, 12.45; V. G. Isoros, Ltd, Winsford, Cheshire, 3.30.

The Duchess of Kent visits HMS Kent, Pool of London, Westminster Pier, 11.25.

Exhibitions: "The Vikings" British Museum, 10.5; "Images of Ourselves": a selection of portrait prints, Print Gallery, Tate Galleries, Millbank, 10.30; Zdzislaw Ruzickowski, watercolours, Campbell and Franks (Fine Arts), 37 New Cavendish Street, 10.30-5.30. "The Chiaroscuro Cut", a show of colour prints from the 1920s and 1930s, Parkin Gallery, 11, Motcombe Street, 10.5.

Talks/Lectures: "Electrification in Third World Fiction", seminar led by Dr Uzo Parhamewu, The Africa Centre, 28 King Street, 6.30. "Queen Victoria as an Artist from her sketchbooks in the Royal Collection" by Marion Walker, Royal College of Arts, 30 Queen's Gate, London, 7.30. "Sacrifice and Creativity in Greek Art" by Antonia Salazar Faria, 11.30. "Music and dance in Greek society" by Patsy Vassanis, 1.15. British Museum, Lumsden music: Equinox, vocal quartet St Olave, 1.05; Richard Townend introduces "Great Organ music", St Martin-in-the-Boulevard, 1.10; Timothy St. Margaret organ recital, St. Brides, 1.15; Wendy Payen-Payne, organ recital, St Martin-within-Ludgate, 1.15.

Restoration work in progress on the West Front of St Albans Cathedral.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Restoration work in progress on the West Front of St Albans Cathedral.

Cathedral appeals for £1.25m

By Alan Hamilton

The appeal to restore and renew the venerable cathedral of St Albans, the shrine of the first English saint, has reached £820,000. It was announced yesterday by the Dean, the Very Rev Peter Moore.

As no cathedral appeal fund has yet failed to reach its target, the

clergy of St Albans confidently expect to reach their original goal of £1m. set in September 1978 by St Albans' Dean, June 1979. Inflation is even more ravaging than time on the ancient Roman bricks, and a new target of £1.25m. has had to be set to ensure completion of essential work to keep the building wind and water tight.

St Albans has some claim to be the oldest of all the great cathedrals: the bricks of its tower were already a millennium old when they were scavenged from the ruins of Verulamium in 1077. It has the longest nave of any British cathedral. But being off the principal route, it did not receive the same care as the cathedral of the stonework. Last year the south side of the huge nave roof

was replaced at a cost of £190,000, and the north side is to be tackled this year.

Much of the decayed stone carving has been restored, with the inclusion of Bishop Runcie's long-forgotten abbot whose stone face adorns the roofline. The principal task remaining is to replace that demolished in 1939, using custom-made bricks to match the Roman originals.

It says much for the Norman builders that the parts in most urgent need of restoration are the nineteenth century "improvements" carried out in less than sympathetic style by Baron Grimthorpe, notably the west front, the tower, and the choir. It is the deterioration of the stonework, last year the

response from the 35 other parishes of St Albans around the world, from North America to Papua New Guinea, some of which are expected to send pilgrims this summer to the true site of St Alban's martyrdom in AD 209.

Cathedral restoration funds receive no help from central government, and much of the work done is for voluntary labour.

But the appeal has fared better since the professional fund-raising firm originally hired was dismissed from the project, to be replaced by a group of public-spirited volunteers.

Donations may be sent to the St Albans Cathedral Appeal, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

roofs were also surprised by ugly ducklings in their sales. In a two-day book auction at Sotheby's which made £10,971 with less than 10 per cent falling to the hammer, there was a copy of *A New System of Geography* by J. Seller, 1691, which sold for £700 against an estimate of £60 to £100. At Bonhams', where the silver sale brought £43,291 with 2 per cent falling to the hammer, a silver teapot and a silver-gilt casket were sold for £1,000 and a Japanese trinket box in silver and lacquer (estimate £2,000 to £3,000).

Christie's also sold silhouettes, miniatures and objects of vermeil which sold for £45,757 with 10 per cent bought in, and well with their estimates. A silver jug from America sold £1,500, and a bronze globular bucket, decorated with Harpy medallions and dating from the twelfth or thirteenth century (estimate £2,500 to £3,000).

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Christie's also sold sil

Appointments Vacant also on page 10

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT TO COMPANY SECRETARY
Nestle, one of the world's major food manufacturers, has its UK headquarters' head office in Croydon. Our turnover of Nestle is over 2000 million and we have a number of companies in the U.K. group. We are seeking someone experienced in company secretarial work to take up a challenging post.

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■ Gold
\$ 648.5, down \$14
■ Money
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3 mth. Euro-S 157.16
6 mth. Euro-S 151.16

IN BRIEF

Net sales of unit trusts down in January

Unit trust sales at £35.5m in January were the highest for eight months, but repurchases were also at an eight-month high of £34.4m leaving net sales of only £1.1m compared with £4.2m the previous month.

The initial launches of three new funds last month more than account for the net increase, while net sales of unit linked life assurance averaged £7m a month in the last quarter of 1979.

The aggregate value of unit trust-linked contracts now amounts to £101.9m, about one-quarter of the industry's total funds under management of £4,275.8m at the end of January.

Call for Opec summit

The United Arab Emirates has proposed that the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries hold an extraordinary summit next month to study unifying the oil prices. Mr Menah Said al-Oteiba, the UAE oil minister, announced this in a broadcast from Abu Dhabi.

Eurodil trouble

Iran's decision to pull out of the Eurodil project for the production of enriched uranium has left France, the principal shareholder, in great difficulty in raising the money to complete the scheme. Iran had a 10 per cent share in the £22,000m franc (about £2.78m) scheme.

City regulation plea

Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, says that regulation in the City has gone far enough and is in danger of stifling initiative. But while the need is for an industrial and commercial revival, the political mood still seems to favour more regulation.

Oil usage warning

An official French report by a forecasting group says European Community energy consumption in the next 10 years will double unless major savings are achieved; and that Europe's position will remain fragile if the United States continues to import huge quantities of oil.

£21m new orders

More than £21m of new orders have now been confirmed for air gas turbines and associated power generation plant from John Brown Engineering in Glasgow, Scotland. They include three turbines for the BP North Sea Magnus Field, five for the ALBA scheme in Bahrain and one for Conoco's refinery in Humberside.

Petrol prices up

British Petroleum, Mobil and Texaco, following Shell and Esso, Monday, have increased their petrol prices. At the pumps today all grades of Mobil petrol will rise by about 3p, BP's prices will be between 3p and 3.5p higher and Texaco garages will charge an average 3.5p more.

GKN's £50m tender

Guest-Keen and Nettlefolds is involved in advanced negotiations with the East German Government to build a forging plant for truck components. Industry sources said the GKN tender could approach £50m.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Burnah Oil 6p to 217p
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Booker McCos 7p to 265p
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Coss Gold Fids 10p to 507p
Fisons 5p to 244p

Pressures mounting for Budget cut in public borrowing level

By David Blake
Economics Editor

A growing concern about the impact that high interest rates are having on the economy is putting increasing pressure on Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to cut back public borrowing in his Budget on March 26.

He may try to get the total of borrowing down to around £9,000m, even below, thus ensuring that the deficit does not rise above the level of the current year.

If he decides to do that, the Budget will have to be tough, beginning a period of two to three years of falling real take home pay. There is a growing question mark over whether the Chancellor will be able to give all the increases in personal allowances implied by the Rooker-Wise amendment, which increased personal allowances automatically in line with inflation. The cost of implementing this in full could be £2,000m.

There is an increasing feeling that the country has not fully grasped the gravity of the economic situation it faces, with prospects of precipitate decline and decay. It now seems probable that the recession will last until the end of next year at least, with output falling in both 1980 and 1981. The recovery in 1982 may be relatively feeble at first.

This picture of falling output is made worse, as far as living standards are concerned, by what is seen as the need to restore the health of the corporate sector through restoring profits. Persuading people to keep cuts in their take home pay to do this is likely to prove as difficult as short-run movements in the economy.

Some advisers have suggested that borrowing ought to be allowed to rise in order to restore the health of the corporate sector through restoring profits. Persuading people to keep cuts in their take home pay to do this is likely to prove as difficult as short-run movements in the economy.

One possible short-term expedient might be to change the incidence of the lower rate of tax so that it affected fewer people or was abolished altogether.

This view is reinforced by a feeling that financial markets would interpret a borrowing requirement of above £10,000m as a significant relaxation of the Government's determination to reduce inflation.

The Chancellor's task in getting the borrowing requirement down for the year ahead is made more difficult by the fact that the Government is facing increasing strain in its cash flow. Serious consideration is being given to reducing the employers' National Insurance surcharge as a way of helping companies. At the same time, there is thought to be little scope to raise significant quantities of extra revenue by increasing indirect taxes because of the inflationary effect this would have.

Although some cuts in public spending have been agreed, the numbers seem to point inexorably to the need to take a tough line on income tax to raise more revenue.

Refusing to increase personal allowances to keep pace with inflation could mean that more people would have to pay tax and that taxpayers' bills would increase as the earnings went up.

It would, however, probably be less politically embarrassing than increasing the standard rate of income tax from its present level of 30p in the pound. The Government is hoping to reduce this figure to 25p in the pound in the years to come.

One possible short-term expedient might be to change the incidence of the lower rate of tax so that it affected fewer people or was abolished altogether.

Chances of reform, page 21

Receiver called in at Dunbee toy group

By Alison Mitchell

British output grew very slightly in the last quarter of 1979, according to official figures published yesterday. In the whole of 1979 the economy stagnated, with little change in the size of the gross domestic product (gdp).

Yesterday's figures, which give preliminary government estimates of gdp in the first three months of last year, show a rise, measured by output, of 0.4 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1979.

As well as appointing a receiver for the parent company, Midland Bank has appointed a receiver to all British subsidiaries, except those in the Market Group of DIY and industrial businesses which include Denco, Dunbee and the Stephen Wilson group. A flotation through an offer for sale is planned and this could raise some £5m for the stricken group.

Mr Richard Beecham, founder and joint managing director of the group, said yesterday that the problem in the United States had a "domino effect" on the overseas bankers. Because of the continuing trading losses in America, the United States creditors have applied to the court for a moratorium to protect their interests.

This appears to have been the final blow. Mr Beecham said: "If only we had been given more time everything would be all right. We have plenty of reserves". Although the 1979 figures have not yet been released, he admitted that

turnover amounted to more than £150m and profits in the United Kingdom ran into several million pounds. However, two deals to sell the American Aurora and Louis Marx interests, which Mr Beecham described as getting rid of the "cancer" at the time of signing letters of intent, appear to have fallen through.

Leisure Dynamics, which called off talks a few days ago, described the Aurora side as "not worth having". But Mr Beecham said that he had found another buyer and emphasized that Empire was about to sign the deal to buy the Marx side.

Dunbee's shares were suspended on Monday at 22p, valuing the company at £5m. It is not thought that the group's assets will cover any payment to shareholders though the Stock Exchange has been approached to allow trading to restart before the end of the financial year to give shareholders the chance to make a loss for tax purposes.

The company, founded after the Second World War by Mr Beecham and Mr Basil Feldman, his fellow managing director, originally made bathing caps.

A run of profits growth peaked in 1977 at £8.5m but, as problems in America rose and losses were also high in Germany and Australia, it slumped into deficit. In the first six months of 1979 losses totalled £5m. The receiver is Mr P. Showell, of accountants Coopers & Lybrand.

Financial Editor, page 21

Orient Overseas bid for Furness Withy hits snags

By Peter Wainwright

The £96.5m bid of 360p a share from Mr C. Y. Tung's Orient Overseas Container Holdings, one of the world's largest shipowners, for Furness Withy seems to have run into difficulties.

Mr C. H. Tung, his son, said in London yesterday that he had twice held exploratory talks with Mr Brian Shaw, chairman

of Furness, and with fellow director Mr Ralph Bateman. It is understood that Mr Walter Salomon, of Furness' merchant bankers, Rea Brothers, was also present. Rea has not disclosed the share stake it has in Furness, but it is thought to be between 10 and 20 per cent.

Mr Tung would not be drawn on whether the talks were pro-

Newman directors face £450,000 damages bill for attempt to mislead shareholders

By Alison Mitchell

Two directors of Newman Industries will have to pay damages of at least £450,000 as a result of an attempt to "trick and mislead" shareholders into accepting a deal which was not in the financial interests of the company.

At the end of one of the longest and most costly post-war actions in the High Court, Mr Justice Vincent ruled yesterday that the Prudential Assurance Company—a minority holder in Newman—and other shareholders had suffered damage as a result of the conspiracy.

The judge held that the Prudential had established that a takeover by Newman of assets of Thomas Poole, Gladstone China had not been in the interests of, or for the benefit of, Newman.

The deal was set up by Mr Alan Bartlett, the Newman chairman and Mr John Laughlin, the vice chairman, who also headed the board of Thomas Poole.

However, the judge doubted if Mr Bartlett ever fully understood the difficulties and dangers inherent in the conflict, which were bound to arise between the interests of Newman and the Prudential.

"When disaster loomed Mr Bartlett saw the destruction of what he genuinely believed to be a potentially valuable scheme. I think he may have

believed that it would be for the ultimate benefit of Newman that it should be paired with a network of associated companies.

"But to say that Mr Bartlett was motivated at least in part by his desire to keep the package together, and that he believed benefits would ultimately flow from it, is not to excuse his conduct," he said.

The Prudential, Gladstone, which had a 25.6 per cent holding in Newman, was itself 35 per cent owned by Strongpoint, a company wholly-owned by Mr Bartlett and Mr Laughlin. In June, 1975, a deal was constructed—signed by Mr Laughlin without approval of Newman shareholders—to buy a package of Thomas Poole assets. These assets excluded the Newman debt of £100,000 owed by Strongpoint.

Later that month Mr Bartlett sent a circular to Newman shareholders which the Prudential claimed had been intended to induce the approval of the scheme, designed to benefit Thomas Poole at the expense of Newman.

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"When disaster loomed Mr Bartlett saw the destruction of what he genuinely believed to be a potentially valuable scheme. I think he may have



Mr Alan Bartlett: responsible for setting up the deal.

are estimated at about £750,000.

The rump of Thomas Poole

whose stake in Newman was

sold to Lonrho was

finally taken over by Maddock from

which Newman, through Grindley of Stoke (Ceramics), a sub-

sidiary, has just agreed to buy

the United States ceramics

interest for about £8m in cash

and shares.

Financial Editor, page 21

Prime rates jump as Fed chief signals tighter monetary policy

From Frank Vogl

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Feb 19.—American monetary policy is to be tightened, Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, today declared that there should be no doubt that the central bank is determined to curb money supply growth in 1980 and in the years ahead. He added: "he must come to grips with the problem of inflation."

The central bank chief said this is not the time for tax cuts, nor does he approve of mandatory wage and price controls or credit allocation. He told Congress that they must make every effort to reduce public spending and added that a reduction in United States oil imports was a critical national priority in the fight against inflation.

The Fed today released new money supply growth targets for 1980, which because of changes in the technical definitions of money make it impossible to make precise comparisons with the Fed's previous targets.

A Fed spokesman pointed out that the full degree of tightening becomes apparent when one compares the mid-point of the new ranges, which amounts to the goals for money growth this year, with the annual rate of growth seen in 1979. The very narrow new measure of the money supply, M1, is set to grow by between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent, and its 4.5 per cent mid-point compares with 8.5 per cent growth in 1979.

Mr Volcker said time and again that the economic outlook now is particularly uncertain and that, while he does believe there will be a



Huge rise in Italian deficit

Italy's trade balance underwent a sharp deterioration in 1979, with a deficit of 4,725,000m lire (£215m), compared with 363,000m lire (£20m) in 1978, according to the latest government figures released in Rome.

December alone registered a deficit of 1,718,000m lire. The non-oil sector, usually in surplus, showed a deficit for the month of 89,000m lire.

Petrol shortage

Naples was very short of petrol yesterday, and Signor Luigi Preti, the transport minister, called in representatives of oil companies and the striking tanker drivers, who are demanding a higher share of recent increases in petroleum prices, for talks.

Japan export hopes

Japan's trade balance should end up in surplus within the next fiscal year despite a record \$3.42m (about £1.48m) deficit for January, Mr Shinichi Yoshikuni, a senior Japanese Government economist, says. He claims a 10 per cent rise in exports would convert the deficit to a surplus.

Bonn premiums up

Figures from West Germany's 20 largest life insurance companies show the industry's net income rose 10.6 per cent last year in nominal terms, or 6.2 per cent in real terms. Premium income was 26,000m Deutsche marks (about £5,560m).

Canada uses more oil

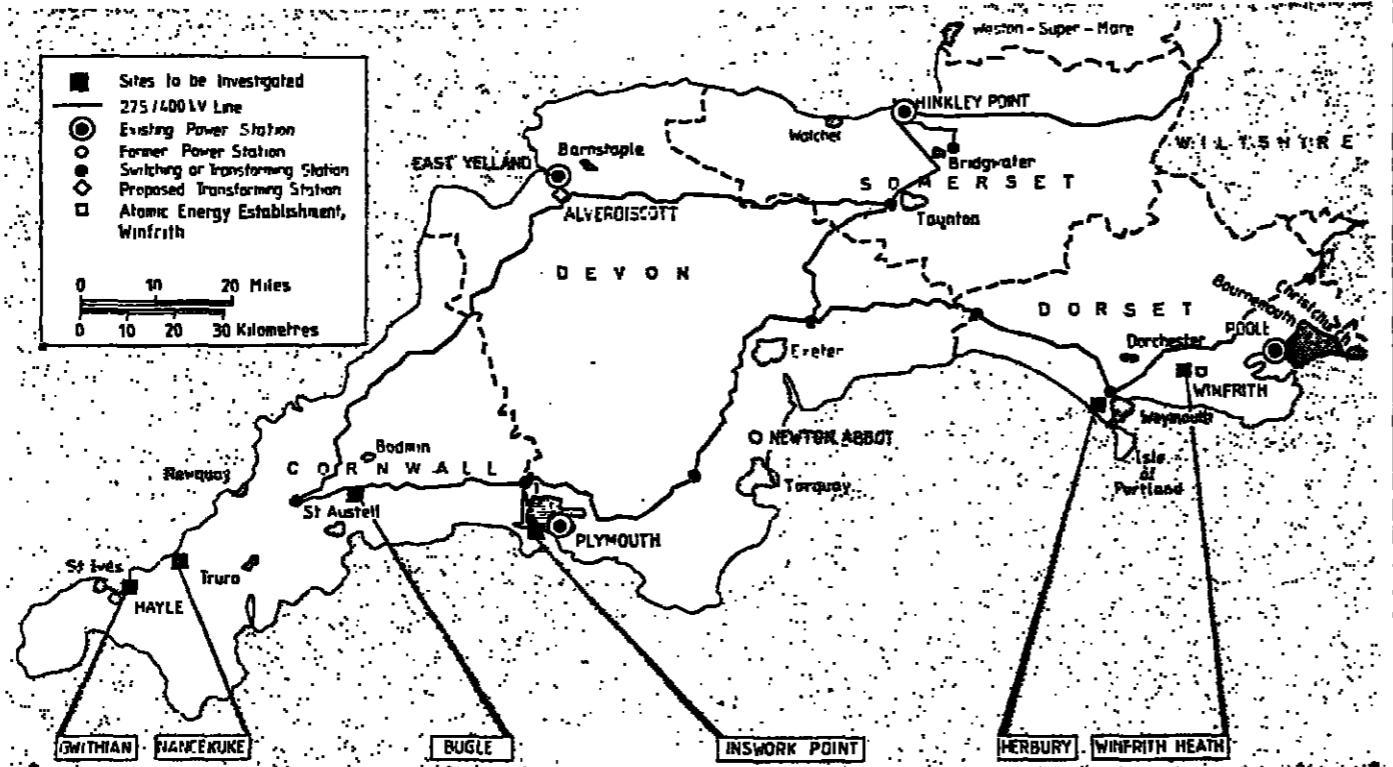
Canadian oil product consumption totalled 60.83 million barrels in December up 2.5 per cent from December 1978.

Dutch unions hit back

Work stoppages have begun at a number of businesses in the Rotterdam area as Dutch labour unions mount protests against the government's plans to cut public spending and restrain wages. FNN, the Netherlands' largest labour federation, says further protests and demonstrations will follow.

EDUCATIONAL

- Sites to be investigated
- 275/1000V Line
- Existing Power Station
- Former Power Station
- Former Ironworking Station
- Proposed Transforming Station
- Atomic Energy Establishment, Winfrith



By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Five sites in Cornwall and

Dorset are to be investigated as possible sites for building a nuclear power station.

Strong local opposition is likely. The Department of Energy believes that the main impediment to its planned programme of nuclear expansion lies not in a coordinated national campaign, but in local protest movements.

The Central Electricity Generating Board is expecting to face a public inquiry to gain permission to build on any of the sites. As an option, the CEGB is investigating whether a site at Inswork Point, originally planned as an oil-fired plant, could support a coal-fired station supplied by sea

future power problems. Seven sites were investigated in 1968 for a station to meet a demand for electricity growing faster than the national average. The plans came to nothing when Mr Wedgwood Benn turned down building an oil-fired station at Inswork Point on grounds of national energy policy.

The type of reactor for the proposed new station has yet to be chosen. The Government plans to introduce American-designed pressurized water reactors (PWRs), but an economy large for the Southwest's needs. This would leave the way clear for a British advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) similar to the one already operating at Hinkley Point.

Investigation work, beginning soon, will include exploratory drilling, hydrographic surveys and environmental studies. It is expected to take two years and first building work is unlikely before 1986, with a station being commissioned in 1992 at the earliest.

As well as investigation of nuclear sites, reuse of sites of the power stations at East Yelland, Plymouth and Poole will be considered, and sites of former power stations at Hayle and Newton Abbott may be used for gas-turbine generation to meet peak demand. The CEGB is also reinforcing the 400-kilowatt transmission link between Hinkley Point and Bridgwater and extending it with a new line to Taunton.

Hull trawler group goes into liquidation

The Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, which was set up in 1892, is going into voluntary liquidation. Mr Tom Boyd, junior, the president said yesterday that all members of the association had resigned and the liquidator would hold its first winding-up meeting on March 7.

The 55 staff have been told that they will be redundant and the future of the association's trading company, which is still profitable, will be decided by the liquidator.

Mr Boyd said the reason for the liquidation was that the association could no longer pay its way since Icelandic trawlers had stopped landing their catches at Hull. Local trawler owners could not afford the economic rate of £51 a ton to unload their catches and the 130-strong trawler fleet of 18 months ago was now reduced to 27 freezer trawlers, only two of which were fishing for the home market, and it was not

known where they would land their catches.

Mr Boyd said the reason for this was that "subsidised EEC imports and unfair treatment" by the Community. British trawlermen had lacked the fishing opportunities of other EEC states and this had resulted in the "annihilation" of the British trawler industry.

It appeared to be a political decision that Britain was not to have a fishing industry and the quayside workforce of 130 men

who unload the trawlers had been laid off until further notice.

After Mr Boyd's announcement the Hull Fish Merchants' Protection Association said although only two or three Icelandic vessels had landed catches at Hull so far this year, there had been ample supplies of fish for the wholesale market. Supplies would continue to arrive from Bridlington, Scarborough and the Scottish ports.

Ford chief condemns 'intransigent' workers

By Edward Townsend

Sir Terence Beckett, chairman of Ford of Britain, yesterday accused the company's British workers of achieving productivity levels "depressingly behind" those of its European factories.

Ford workers in the United Kingdom had produced 150,000 more cars during 1979 compared with 1978, but that was a year when the company was hit by a nine-week strike and the "effective increase" in output was about 50,000 cars.

"We are not making the progress we should be in productivity. It is sheer intransigence to change—it is conservatism," he said. Some jobs had fallen 30 per cent longer to complete in Britain than in the European plants.

In spite of the poor productivity record, Ford is planning to increase its share of the United Kingdom new car market this year and to reduce imports. Sir Terence said that the lower total market forecast this year meant that Ford

would have to sell the same number of cars as in 1979 when it captured 28.29 per cent of sales.

A total of 1.71 million new cars were sold in Britain last year and the 1980 market is expected to fall to 1.5 million, with some companies putting their forecasts as low as 1.3 million.

Ford is planning to introduce a second plant at the Dagenham plant to build more Fiesta's, for which there is a long waiting list throughout Europe, and to produce more Corinas.

Almost half of Ford's British sales last year were vehicles from its other European plants. But Sir Terence said that the company still contributed a net £200m to Britain's balance of payments. This included engines and gearboxes and other components made in Britain for Ford's international operations.

He added that by providing economies of scale of production, the international link-up had helped Ford to reach and

retain its successful place in Britain. "The only way to do the job properly is to get these economies through an integrated European effort," he said.

Sir Terence Beckett: company productivity falling behind.



Sweden may ease tax on shares

Stockholm, Feb 19.—The Swedish government has instructed its capital gains committee to examine the possibility of introducing a system to ease double taxation on earnings from shares, the budget ministry said.

Present taxation laws must be changed if Sweden is to have a better opportunity to attract risk capital and if the conditions for share investment are to be made more equal to those for other placement vehicles, it added.

Last year the government set up the committee and asked it to study the rules related to taxation on share profits.

The ministry will now also review the possibilities for introducing a system to ease double taxation on distributed profits in the light of examples abroad.

The transition to such a system poses technical complications and certain steps to stimulate share ownership must be taken in advance, it added.

The committee will study if Sweden should introduce a system whereby the effect of double taxation is either reduced or wholly abolished on distributed profits. This can be done by having differentiated corporation tax rates so that companies can claim whole or part deductions for paid out profits, and distributed profit could be taxed at a lower rate than retained profits.

Dockland developers short list drawn up

A short list naming five developers was presented last night to a joint meeting of the Greater London and Southwark councils, which decided to introduce a system of 120 acres of London's redundant docklands. Among the schemes proposed are plans for shopping complexes, offices, hotels and a "technology city".

The short list is the work of the Dockland Development Organization, set up in 1975 to make best use of one of the most lucrative sites within the City of London.

The site was last in use as docks in 1970, but it was not until 1973 that the owners, the Port of London Authority, sold 400 acres to Southwark and the GLDC.

The GLDC, Development mainly housing, has continued since 1973 to develop the remaining 280 acres not taken up by the present optioned sites.

Which development plan will be selected depends on a number of factors including its job creation prospects, the contribution made to the environment and the degree by which the proposed project could repay the councils for the money invested.

The committee will study if Sweden should introduce a system whereby the effect of double taxation is either reduced or wholly abolished on distributed profits. This can be done by having differentiated corporation tax rates so that companies can claim whole or part deductions for paid out profits, and distributed profit could be taxed at a lower rate than retained profits.

Developers to submit proposals.

Plans for shopping complexes, offices, hotels, banks and the novel idea of a technology city were submitted by last month's closing date. Fifteen developers, including a number of architects, builders, financiers and managers, promised investment ranging from £15m to £45m. They included a number of

foreign firms.

The names on the list discussed last night by the joint planning group are, according to the development organization, far from final. Recommendations will be made, but the final decision rests with the planning group.

At this stage, only preliminary proposals have been submitted by applicants, although many groups have publicized their schemes.

The consortium behind the idea of converting London's docks into a technology city.

The project is supported by the Guinness Peat banking group, Sir Robert McAlpine construction, surveyors and estate agents Knight, Frank and Rutley, with the high technology campus provided by the Cranfield Institute of Technology. That proposal is estimated to cost £254m.

The decision on the short list

will be made by the end of this month, when candidates will be invited to submit more detailed proposals.

Practicality of paying COD

From Mrs Pamela Brunner

Sir, Come off it, Mr Baker

(Letters, February 11). We are

living in 1980, and the idea of

paying COD for goods and

services may look sensible on

paper but would be utterly im-

possible in practice.

As a widow, I naturally have

to go out to work to support

myself and my hundreds of

neighbours, when I am

unable to work.

It is not possible to

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Stronger medicine from the Fed

The United States Federal Reserve Board has at last reluctantly conceded what has been apparent to the money and bond markets for weeks. The package of last October was simply insufficient to slow the economy and halt the acceleration in the pace of American price inflation.

This is something in itself, but it is ominous that the response, now that the patient has failed to respond to one taste of the medicine, is merely to step up the dosage.

Financial markets will be deeply relieved that the Fed has kept its nerve in an election year by tightening up in apparently impressive fashion on money supply targets. It was clear from yesterday's market reactions, however, that there is no doubt about the price that will have to be paid if these laudable targets are to be achieved.

The Fed has now added its voice to those opposing credit ceilings and wage and price controls. The Administration, for its part, is still bent on what economists see as an excessively expansionist fiscal policy, forecast (officially) to produce a budget deficit of \$40,000m this year against \$27,700m last year. In short, the burden of slowing monetary growth and curbing inflation is devolving almost solely upon interest rates.

Any hopes there might have been of an early downturn in dollar rates have, accordingly, been shattered. Since last Friday's discount rate increase the bond markets, already in a state of collapse, have plummeted even further.

Short-term Eurodollar rates which a week ago were looking stable at around 14½ per cent were up around 15½ per cent last night and the United States prime rate has moved up to that level, too.

The only consolation for investors is that long-term bond rates are at last edging alongside the rate of United States inflation, but it is increasingly hard to see how equities can continue to ignore the plight of the fixed rate markets.

All this is, of course, equally depressing for the European markets, which are awaiting a drop in dollar rates before they can realistically expect any reduction in their historically high rates.

Dunbee-Combex-Marx

The game is over

After a good profits record before the setbacks of the past couple of years since going public in 1962, Dunbee-Combex-Marx has finally paid the penalty for overextending itself by trying to become a major force in the world-toy industry.

Following the breakdown of talks to sell its loss-making United States subsidiaries which it bought four years ago, the cash haemorrhage across the Atlantic has now become terminal and yesterday the group's major creditor Midland Bank put in a receiver to salvage what it could from the ashes.

The sheer scale of its United States liabilities, however, means that ordinary shareholders are unlikely to be left with anything at the end of the day. This is in spite of profitable United Kingdom toy side which the receiver should have little trouble in finding a buyer for and the do-it-yourself division, which has been



Mr. Richard Beecham, joint managing director of Dunbee-Combex-Marx.

excluded from the receiver, where plans to float this off should bring in perhaps £6m.

The last balance sheet which is now a year out of date showed borrowings of £32m and a net worth of £23.5m or 102p a share. Since then shareholders' funds have been reduced by £5m following the first half loss and second half losses have been equally serious.

Dunbee's problems however are that much of the balance sheet is represented by the

United States assets but following the heavy losses in the United States liabilities are around \$12m higher and guarantees on its overseas creditors cannot be met.

At the moment the main uncertainty is the extent to which Dunbee guaranteed its overseas debt—only a quarter of the \$20m owed to Chemical Bank is thought to be covered for example—but in any liquidation stocks would be worth much less than they are presently valued in the balance sheet.

Newman Industries

Questions of company law

Unless it is challenged on appeal, yesterday's decision in the High Court, in favour of Newman Industries, opens up all sorts of interesting possibilities. In the first place the Pru, which over the past five years has battled the case on behalf of the rest of the shareholders, has established that, given the right factual circumstances and the money to pursue the matter, a class action can be brought in the English courts. So that opens up a new area of activity to disaffected shareholders of a company controlled by its directors. But there is much more to it than that.

In the second place, Mr Justice Viner-Jones' decision that, though the directors of Newman did not own a majority of the voting shares of the company, Messrs Bartlett and Laughton had de facto control—by virtue of personality and their entrenched position—and could therefore be sued by another on behalf of the company, really puts a completely new gloss on the risks and rewards of directors.

They are going to need indemnity insurance—though given that there will be new shareholders to pursue a matter with the means and the determination that the Pru has used on this one, the premiums should be reasonably low.

In the third, there is the interesting question of what effect the case will have on the institutions' penchant for voting with their feet. In this case the Pru took the other course, for which the rest of the shareholders in Newman ought to be duly grateful—though it appears that they are apt instead to reckon up the damages that the continuing scandal is doing to their share.

In this case, however, it will be possible to put a figure on the edamame done by the TPG affair. If it is a matter of managerial incompetence, rather than the issue of "tricky and misleading" circulars, the questions for the fund manager will be what they have always been: whether to stand and fight or sell the problem on to someone else.

Marchwiel

Cushioned by cash

Civil engineering groups currently have nowhere to turn as public sector cutbacks bite ever more deeply at home and competition intensifies overseas. But at least the major groups, like Marchwiel, have the benefit of huge cash balances built up in recent times to fall back on as the recession deepens.

Although turnover rose 27 per cent to £239m last year, largely reflecting new motorway contracts, the rewards from which have yet to be quantified, profits fell from £13.5m to £12.45m. And without the switch to SSAP 12 which reduced the depreciation charge the figure would have been only a shade above the group's forecast of £11m made at the interim stage.

Marchwiel was hard hit by last year's adverse winter weather, but now the problem is simply one of available work drying up at home, while overseas, with the exception of Portugal and South Africa, competition has driven prices below the level of viability for western groups.

To make matters worse, Marchwiel, as with other civil engineers, is finding it increasingly hard to wrest payment from financially-stretched local authorities for completed work.

Having come back a long way the shares recovered 50 to 88p yesterday where they yield 9.7 per cent on the one fifth dividend increase and sell at just over five times heavily-taxed earnings. At this level they lean heavily on cash holdings of perhaps £15m, or nearly 70p a share, which Marchwiel hopes to spend on diversification, and a net asset value of around 175p a share.

Business Diary: Fire power • City's Cash flow

At 8.45 yesterday morning, the Pall Mall gun firm of Churchill, Atkin, Grant & Lang, took possession for an undisclosed fee of two shotguns it had made for the Duke of Windsor for £150 each in the 1930s.

Twenty minutes later they had found a buyer—the daughter of a Greek shipping owner who went away delighted with what she considered a bargain. She had paid £18,000 for the pair.

High-class shotguns can make a killing both on and off the moors today, which goes a long way towards explaining the plans of Churchill's owners, the Harris and Sheldon group, for their gun making business.

Churchills, where a gun will

cost you £9,000, will remain untouched. It will continue to produce 70 pieces a year in a market where its sole competitors are firms such as Purdey and Holland and Holland.

But the 146-year-old name of gun-makers W. & C. Scott will be revived in a new works in Birmingham which will produce custom-built guns costing between £1,800 and £2,300.

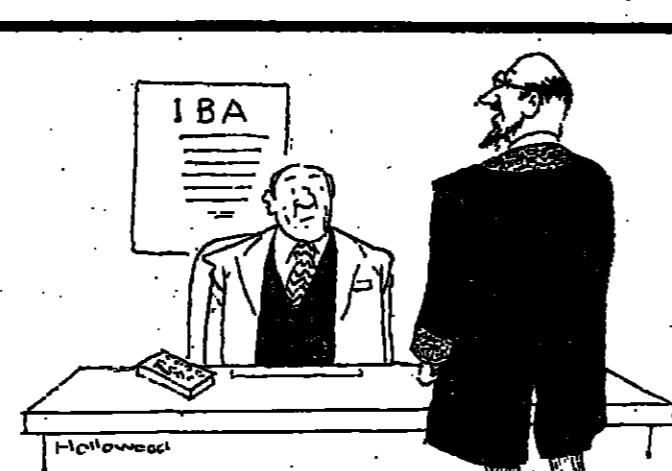
Former British pistol team captain, Pat Whately, Scott's managing director, is looking for world sales of 200 in the first year out of a market of 5,000.

His sights are firmly set on America, where he reckons the guns will be appreciated as much as investments as sporting firearms.

If the British Steel Corporation does manage to hook an American to take over from Sir Charles Villiers, it will be setting something of a precedent, it seems.

I spoke to the CBI, the American Chamber of Commerce (United Kingdom) and the American Embassy yesterday in an attempt to glean the names of people who had crossed the Atlantic to rejuvenate industry in the old country.

"Does Vauxhall count?" was the best offer I had. And as it is part of General Motors it certainly does not. I fear BSC may not have an easy task



"I have doctorates in psychology, business studies and English and I want to compose classical, uplifting commercials for the coming fourth TV channel."

Ross Belch, the chief executive of Scott Lithgow, admitted "a little personal sadness" when he officiated at his last launch from Scott's Cartersburn yard on the Clyde yesterday.

Later this year, Belch will return from Scott's, which is the oldest shipbuilding company in the world, dating back to 1711.

Yesterday saw the launch of the Myrmidon, the last of three multi-purpose cargo liners being built by the company for the Ocean Transport and Trading Company of Liverpool.

Capital taxation: what chance of radical reform this time?

Sir Geoffrey Howe's first budget was a great deal more radical than anyone would have forecast at the time of the general election. His second, which will be announced on March 28, is likely to be a great deal less so.

This is partly because the second budget is designed slightly to Conservative efforts to regenerate it, and this has left the Government little room for manoeuvre. It may also be because the merits of stability and certainty, at least for those engaged in the management (and the taxation) of business, have been impressed on the minds of Conservative ministers.

At any rate the bulk of the tax provisions this time seem likely to be directed towards correcting anomalies—particularly the anomalies created by a high rate of inflation—rather than changing the weight or emphasis of the Government's tax. In one area, capital taxation, the Government has already committed itself to change. But how much will it do in this Budget?

Both of the principal forms of capital taxation—capital gains tax (CGT) and capital transfer tax (CTT)—have long been targets of Tory wrath, the first because it is unjust, the second because it is unwise. With the abolition of exchange controls, both of them are potentially ineffective, as well. The Chancellor has had a review of capital taxation conducted under the chairmanship of Lord Cockfield. The question now is whether this review will bear fruit of any significance next month.

In the City at least there have

been some strong hopes that capital gains tax would be abolished altogether. Its deficiencies are obvious enough and universally admitted, even to the point that the Inland Revenue has produced a document at the end of 1977, discussing how best they might be remedied. They hinge on the fact that, at a time of high inflation, all too often the capital gain that is being taxed is in real terms, not a gain at all.

Or the remedies proposed,

indexation of the gain itself

or, more simply, of the asset

which is being sold, is in principle the more just. It does, however, pose administrative difficulties, relating for instance to the allocation of cost and wasting assets.

Costs

The solutions, in the Revenue's opinion, "would involve considerable complexity, resulting in increased staff costs for the Revenue and increased compliance costs for taxpayers". Since one of the objects of the revision of capital taxation is to cut down on its cost and complexity, this one looks like a non-starter.

The alternative development of some form of tapering relief, is likewise beset by complications (in, for instance, measuring the period of ownership), and has none of the merits of justice. It looks like the worst possible compromise, and can therefore almost certainly be ruled out as a product of the Conservatives' reforming zeal.

The arguments for the abolition of CGT really hinge on the fact that it is unjust in

itself, and apparently impossible to amend without recourse to further injustice, increased complexity or both. But however attractive the abolitionist solution appears in the City, its protagonists ignore a still more basic problem of

itself, and apparently impossible to correct without reference to the effects of CTT that they are not open to question that they will do something about it. However, abolition is only the first of two great steps.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Low turnover as optimists wait for rally

Dealers were in a fairly optimistic mood at the resumption of trading yesterday, in the hope that some sort of rally might take place following Monday's defensive performance. But they were disappointed, and prices were left to drift.

Market sentiment remained worried by the state of bad news which has kept buyers at bay recently, and which still shows no sign of abating. But despite the worsening steel situation, and bleak economic outlook, very little selling was encountered and turnover was described as low. Some observers still remain fairly confident about an upturn later in the week, in the belief that as the institutions' cash supply builds up some release must be provided and this may occur when the first bit of good news appears on the horizon.

So as before the stage was held by the speculative elements and financial institutions as in the case of oil.

Some early buying was reported and was borne out by the index which opened 3.6 up. But this proved thin and when the follow-through petered out jobbers were on the defensive and marked their prices lower.

Gilts made more of a spirited attempt to correct matters and tried to show some improvement on overnight levels. Unfortunately this came to an abrupt halt when Wall Street reopened easier, and was closely followed by the index announcement that prime rates had risen to 16.5 per cent. This prompted all too much for gilts, especially at the longer end where prices were rapidly marked lower. After earlier reporting rises of around £1 long eventually finished the day a £1 lower. The effect at the short end of the market was less substantial with most closing at opening levels.

Wall Street also had an unsettling effect on equities which closed mostly at or near the bottom.

The FT Index, which was unchanged at 3 pm, went on to finish 1.2 off at 461.8.

Leading industrials were mostly easier where changed, although the exception to the rule proved to be Flikington

Against the trend, Footwear maker Headlam, Sims & Coggins rose 2p to 45p. Even so they are still only that amount away from the 1979-80 low. Operators talk of developments, and recall the interim assurance that the group is placed to profit from any trading opportunities.

Bros, where a small amount of investment interest lifted the price 8p to 226p, was fairly firm ahead of next week's figures and hopes of 100 per cent scrip issue. Blue Fins fell 5p to 284p, accompanied by Hawkers 6p lower at 178p and Undevier 3p off at 455p. BAT

continued to recover gaining 2p to 238p after last week's nervousness when the price fell 20p in three days.

Furness Withy looked slightly unsteady, dropping 12p to 368p amid a weight of rumours over its recent approach from C. Y. Tung of Hongkong. The company was yesterday deep in talks with the chairman's son, M. C. H. Tung, although both sides were reported to have slipped. Speculation also continued to bolster Stag Line 14p stronger at 180p, in a thin market, with some pundits claiming that Ropner Holdings holding a near 30 per cent is about to bid for the rest.

Shares of Delson returned from suspension, leaping 21p to 52p on news of an agreed bid from McKechnie Bros, 1p lower at 109p.

Speculative attention also focused on Wedgwood following its recent better-than-expected third-quarter profits announcement with the shares climbing 2p to 73p, while United Scientific was good for 10p at 483p after recent press comment.

Elsewhere on the bid front Polly Peck Holdings advanced 19p to 623p and the "A" 5p to 512p. Racal was unchanged at 216p, but GEC firm 1p to 353p. Among the other takeover candidates in the electrical sector, Faraday held at 49p, Plessey dipped 1p to 138p and Ercore 2p to 117p.

Engineers remained fairly silent to the worsening steel

ground. The ordinary expanded 16p to 623p and the "A" 5p to 512p. Racal was unchanged at 216p, but GEC firm 1p to 353p. Among the other takeover candidates in the electrical sector, Faraday held at 49p, Plessey dipped 1p to 138p and Ercore 2p to 117p.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Seltrust given permission for ore project

Seltrust Mining, the Australian subsidiary of Selection Trust, has received official permission to go ahead with the development of its Teutonic Bore project in Western Australia.

The ore body is reckoned to be 2.5m tonnes, made up of an average 3.5 per cent copper, 9.5 per cent zinc, and 150 grammes per tonne silver. It will cost A\$33m to bring to production in about two years.

A contract for the overburden stripping and open-pit mining has been awarded to Leighton Contractors. About 300,000 tonnes a year will be removed from the open pit over five and a half years of operation under the contract. After that the mine may go underground.

Seltrust Mining used to be called Western Selcalt. The Teutonic Bore is near Murchison, and was located in 1976. This is the latest mine to be brought into operation by Selection Trust, which while having an 8.3 per cent stake in Amex, the American natural resource company, is also indirectly 26 per cent controlled by Anglo-American.

Toyota Motor Sales

Toyota Motor Sales has revised upwards its after-tax profit forecast for the current business year ending next March 31 to about 33bn yen from 31bn estimated last November. It also revised upwards its sales forecast to about 3.25 trillion yen from 3.15 trillion. These compared with after-tax profit of 22.81bn yen reported for the last business year on sales of 2.81 trillion.

The company said that the upward revision followed a larger-than-expected increase in exports to the United States and Middle East, and improved export profitability due to the yen's depreciation against the dollar.

Exports in the year are expected to rise to 1.47m vehicles from an original target of 1.37m, while domestic sales will be

almost unchanged from the target of 1.63m. The company exported 1.26m vehicles and sold 1.58m at home last year.

He added that BP Australia is also seeking information from Amex and Seltrust on what rights held under their existing joint venture with Milnerman they intend exercising.

When this information is available, BP Australia will be able to make a final decision on the purchase.—Reuters

Placid-Gulf

Dallas—Placid Oil Company plans to make an offer to buy Gulf Resources and Chemicals' common and preferred stock.

Under terms of the proposed offer, Placid will pay \$42.12 for each share, \$69.62 for each series "A" preferred share, \$52.91 for each series "B" preferred share and \$49.77 for each series "C" preferred share tendered.

—Reuters

International

and its management board has agreed to this. Approval is still required from Bayer's supervisory board, and the German cartel office, Bayer said.

The move to raise Agfa-Gevaert's capital has been prompted by the sharp rise in the price of silver, it added.

National Consolidated

The large Australian manufacturing group, National Consolidated, boosted profits by 17.4 per cent to \$A4m (about £2.25m) for the half-year to December 31. Turnover also climbed 20.4 per cent in the same period to \$A89m.

BP Australia

Melbourne—BP Australia has confirmed that it plans to buy a 50 per cent stake in the Milnerman, Queensland, low-grade coal deposit through its purchase of Milnerman Coal Pty.

Milnerman Coal is a privately-owned company which has 50 per cent of the Milnerman deposit and no price has been given for the purchase.

The other half of the deposit, estimated to contain about 1,600 million tonnes, is owned by Amex Inc with 43.75 per cent and Mitsui and Co with 6.25 per cent.

A BP Australia spokesman noted the planned purchase is

subject to approval by Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

He added that BP Australia is also seeking information from Amex and Seltrust on what rights held under their existing joint venture with Milnerman they intend exercising.

When this information is available, BP Australia will be able to make a final decision on the purchase.—Reuters

Hampton Gold

Hampton Gold Mining Areas is spending A\$2.16m on buying 14.9 per cent of Paranga Mining, an Australian mining and exploration company. Paranga has been one of the more dramatic performers in the Australian mining stock market.

The deal, worth £104m, is to be financed by issuing 372,250 Hampton shares to Paranga. The shares have been placed with institutions by stockbrokers Hoare, Govett. Paranga's main asset is 10 per cent of the Que River project in Tasmania.

Last year Hampton whose interests include Wukter, the Huddersfield manufacturer of mining machinery, coal in Staffordshire, a stake in Western Mining, lead in Australia, and tin in Cornwall, made pretax profits of £446,000.

Signal-Ampex

Beverly Hills—Signal Cos Inc and Ampex Corp have jointly announced agreement in principle for the merger of Ampex into Signal through an exchange of common stock. The terms call for the exchange of 0.79 of a Signal common share for each common share of Ampex Corp.

Ampex has about 11m common shares outstanding and an additional 1.7m shares reserved for issue upon exercise of employee stock options and conversion of convertible debentures.—AP-Dow Jones.

Commodities

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT CONSTANT FACTOR COST (1975=100)

	Based on	Ex. Income	Avg. date	Actual
1977	105.3	105.3	104.6	107.8
1978	107.8	108.0	107.7	107.8
1979	107.5	107.6	107.9	107.4
1980	105.8	107.9	108.6	107.8
1981	105.9	109.2	108.5	108.8
1982	108.0	111.0	111.4	111.7
1983	106.3	109.8	109.3	109.7
1984	108.7			

*Because of doubts about the reliability of the expenditure-based measure of GDP, the expenditure-based measure of GNP is being used. It is being produced by projecting forward the average of estimates in Q4 1978 by the quarterly movements in the output-based measure.

Wall Street

New York, Feb 19.—Stock prices dropped sharply in heavy trading this morning. Declines led advances eight to three to three and the Dow Jones industrial average dropped six points.

Analysts said investors were concerned about a new round of interest rate increases. This morning, the Bank of America and Chemical Bank raised prime rates to a record 15.5 per cent from 15.1 per cent.

On Friday, the Federal Reserve raised the discount rate to a record 13 per cent from 12 per cent and Wells Fargo Bank raised prime rates to 15.5 per cent from 15.1 per cent.

The opening was a little slow on rates around 17 to 16 per cent, but it soon became obvious that banks were preparing for today's mid-month make-up. Demand for reserve assets, directed money markets in discount houses, some sizable sums became available on rates that steadily declined to 16.5 per cent over the course of the morning.

In the early afternoon, 16 per cent was touched. Towards the close, however, the situation was tightening a little once again, so that banks were finally ruled off between 16 to 16.5 per cent.

Against the market were the unwillingness of a previous purchaser and resale agreement, requiring the houses to buy back a moderate quantity of bills. This was only partially offset by small above-target bank balances coming over from Monday.

Recent Issues

Bank-Mon 10th (100)

Bank-Mon 14th (10

St. James' Grome Grome

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Property

Old houses can be spacious

Old village houses can be deceptive and often offer far more accommodation than is apparent to the eye. Differences of roof line, for instance, may give the impression that what is, in fact, a single building is two or more, and often the depth of the building behind the street frontage is greater than a casual inspection might suggest.

In all, it is not necessary to look to remote country locations for houses that are above average in size. An interesting example is The Corner House, at Swinford, not far from Rugby, on the borders of Northampton-

shire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

This is an older but completely renovated property, including a new roof, new windows and the installation of a damp-proof course. The main accommodation comprises six reception rooms, a master bedroom and bathroom suite, and five further bedrooms and another bathroom. In addition, a separate wing contains a party room opening on to an indoor swimming pool, a sauna-cum-gymnasium with a shower, another sitting room and two further bedrooms. Outside there is a central courtyard with garage and a small garden. Offers in the region of £10,000 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Northampton, and Ivan Cawood, of Rugby.

Another more normally sized property is being offered through the Chester office of Jackson-Stops and Staff is Glynn-Wern Hall, at Llanydron, in the Vale of Clwyd, near Denbigh in North Wales.

This is an elegant, relatively rare, Georgian house

which dates from about 1780 and has fine views over the vale. Here, the accommodation includes five reception rooms, seven bedrooms, two dressing rooms and four bathrooms. Here, too, there is a central courtyard with garaging. Gardens and a small paddock cover about 2½ acres. A price of about £100,000 is expected.

In North Yorkshire, one of those interesting old Yorkshire farmhouses is for sale. This is Yew Tree House, at Aldfield, near Ripon, built about 1768, of stone under a pantiled roof. It was originally part of the Studley Royal Estate, formerly owned by the Marquess of Ripon, which was sold in 1965. Recent renovation has included the addition of a large entrance portico and external shutters to the windows.

Accommodation includes three reception rooms, a playroom and four bedrooms. The gardens around the house are floodlit and there are several paddocks, the land extending in all to some 8½ acres. The price is



Yew Tree House, near Ripon, £120,000 with 8½ acres.

£120,000 and the agents are Knight Frank and Rutley.

Another interesting old former farmhouse is Old West Farm, at Little Preston, near Daventry, Northamptonshire. It dates from the seventeenth or eighteenth century and is mainly built of stone with some brick walls under a tiled roof. The original farmhouse has been added to over the years in a style similar to the original, and now there are four reception rooms, five bedrooms and three

and now the accommodation includes three reception rooms, five bedrooms and two bathrooms. There are also two large attics which might make a playroom or further bedrooms. Gardens and grounds run to some two acres and have a hard tennis court and an ornamental pond. Offers over £105,000 are sought through Bernard Thorpe and Partners of Tunbridge Wells.

Another similar property is Stonebridge Oast, at Woodchurch, near Ashford, also in Kent. This is a large old building converted in the early 1970s, but without a roundel. Period features include exposed beams, rag-stone walls and a large inglenook fireplace. There are four reception rooms and five bedrooms, plus about one-third of an acre of land. The price is £80,000 and the agents are Ashendens, of Ashford.

A two-bedroom cottage separate from the main house is a feature of Rocklake Farm, at High Hurstwood, Northampton.

It has two reception rooms and four bedrooms. The cottage is believed to have been the old granary and, apart from its present two ground floor bedrooms, also has a large unconverted room on the first floor. There is also an extensive range of outbuildings grouped around an old brick courtyard. Gardens and grounds run to about 1½ acres. Offers of about £85,500 are being asked for through the Horsham office of John D. Wood.

Oast houses are other popular subjects for conversion and a good example is another interesting property in the same part of the country is Brookhurst Farm, in Chapel Lane, Blackboys,

near Uckfield, in Sussex. This is a fairly typical Sussex farmhouse thought to date from the latter part of the sixteenth-century and divided up many years ago. The present main house was probably the old coach house and was built towards the end of the last century, of red brick, with some tile hanging and leaded light and casement windows.

It has two reception rooms and four bedrooms. The cottage is believed to have been the old granary and, apart from its present two ground floor bedrooms, also has a large unconverted room on the first floor. There is also an extensive range of outbuildings grouped around an old brick courtyard. Gardens and grounds run to about 1½ acres. Offers of about £85,500 are being asked for through the Horsham office of John D. Wood.

Another features include many of the original timbers, a fine inglenook fireplace in the dining room, and the original oak spiral staircase, which rises to both first and second floors. Accommodation includes two main reception rooms, a breakfast room and five bedrooms, two of which are on the second floor. Two acres of land include a garden and a paddock through which runs a small stream. Something over £80,000 is being asked for through Braxtons, of Uckfield.

Gerald Ely

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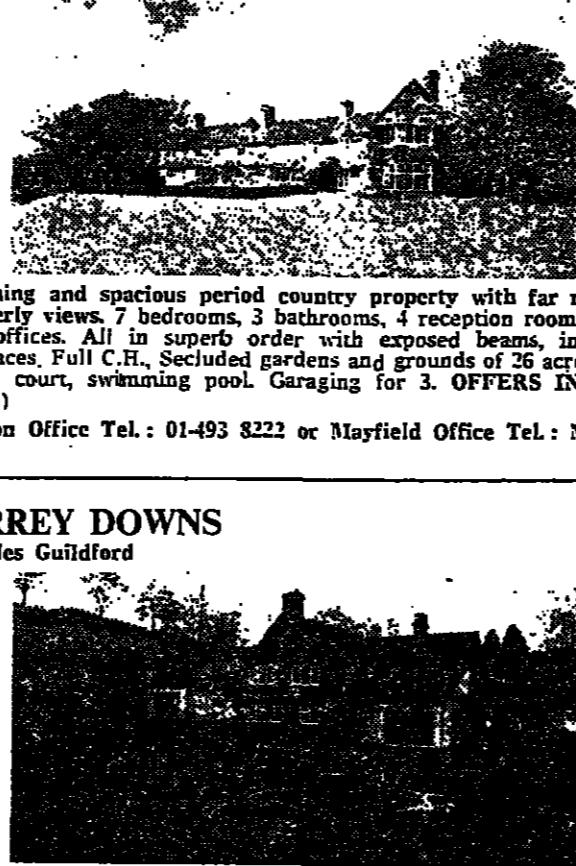
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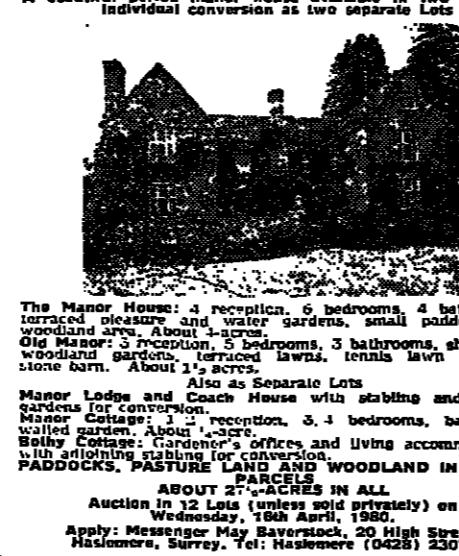
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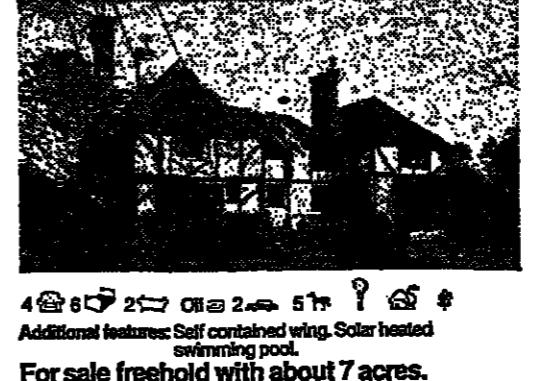
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KENT

Bromley 1½ miles. Victoria 70 miles. M25 3 miles.

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4 bed, 2 bath, 51 ft. 9 in. 6 ft. 6 in. Additional features: Self-contained wing, Solar heated swimming pool. For sale freehold with about 7 acres. Apply: LONDON OFFICE, (Tel: 01-629 8171) (Ref: 6467MP)

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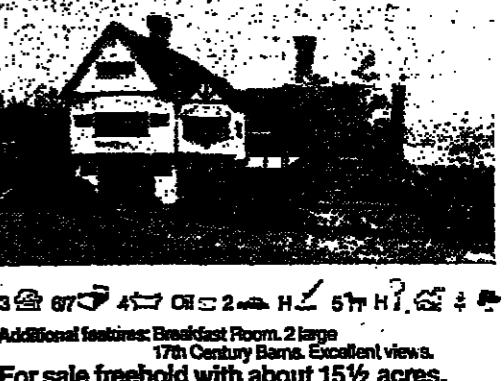


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